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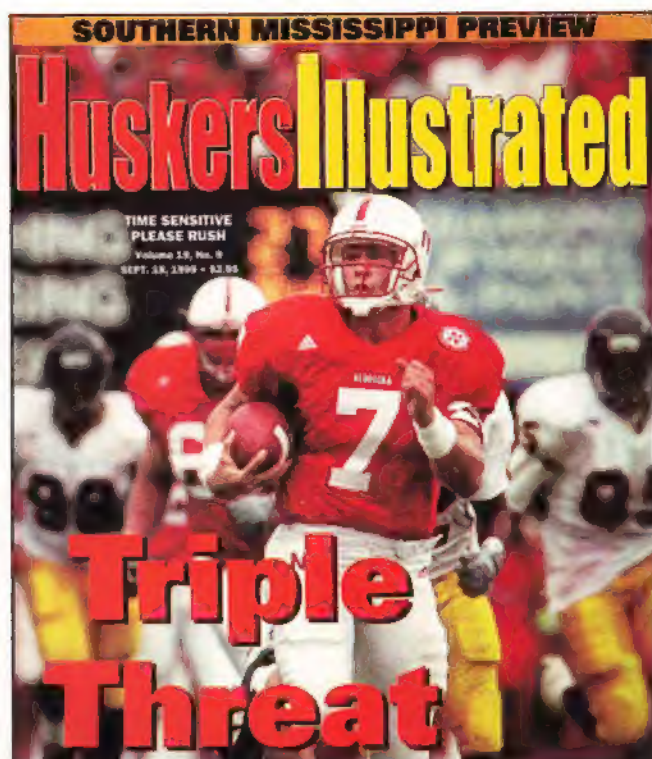
Volume 19, No. 12
OCT. 9, 1999 • \$2.95

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. . . ALL THE TIME

A soccer player in a white jersey with the number 9, holding a soccer ball. The player is wearing a white jersey with red and black accents. The jersey has "FILA" and "Huskers" logos. The player is holding a soccer ball with black and white patterns. The background is a blurred outdoor field.

NEBRASKA SOCCER HOME SCHEDULE 1999

Aug. 20	UNO	7 p.m.
Aug. 27	TEXAS TECH	7 p.m.
Aug. 29	BAYLOR	1 p.m.
Sept. 3	ORAL ROBERTS	7 p.m.
Sept. 10/12	Husker Fila Invitational	
Sept. 10	USC vs. Portland	5 p.m.
	CONNECTICUT	7 p.m.
Sept. 12	USC vs. Connecticut	11 a.m.
	PORTLAND	1 p.m.
Sept. 24	TULSA	7 p.m.
Oct. 8	DENVER	7 p.m.
Oct. 15	KANSAS	7 p.m.
Oct. 17	MISSOURI	1 p.m.
Oct. 29	IOWA STATE	7 p.m.

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Huskers Illustrated CONTENTS

OCT. 9, 1999 • Volume 19, No. 12



DEPARTMENTS

Letters	5
Letter From The Editor	5
NU Notebook	6
<i>Offensive line coach Milt Tenopir says Nebraska's blocking schemes are too complex for most freshmen.</i>	
Quick Hits	7
<i>Senior rover Mike Brown is climbing the Husker charts for career tackles.</i>	
State Of The Huskers	9
<i>Junior I-back Correll Buckhalter learns first-hand about second chances.</i>	
From The West	10
<i>Redshirt freshman rush end Chris Kelsay is a larger version of his successful brother Chad.</i>	
From The Beat	11
<i>Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee has a lot of new pieces to fit together.</i>	
Scouting Report	12
<i>Iowa State was happy to have an idle week to recover after its near-miss against Kansas State.</i>	
Oklahoma State Game Recap	14
4th and Inches	17
Oklahoma State Game Statistics	19
Player Profile	23
<i>The Iowa State game has special meaning for Ames, Iowa, native Jamie Burrow.</i>	
Team Of The Decade	24
<i>When Nebraska received a bid to play in the 1941 Rose Bowl, the state was euphoric.</i>	
25 Years Of Women's Athletics	28
<i>Louisville administrator Julie Hermann learned about hard work as a walkon at Nebraska.</i>	
Side Out	30
<i>John Cook gave up the head coaching job at Wisconsin for a future chance to lead the Huskers.</i>	
Crossword Puzzle	32
This Week In Husker History	32
Grid Recruiting	34
<i>Top offensive line prospects know they'll get plenty of attention at Nebraska.</i>	
Final Word	38



20 Freshmen Get Early Shot

Three true freshmen have earned shots to play immediately. *By Mike Babcock*

ON THE COVER

Tight end Tracey Wistrom is hauled down just short of the OSU goal line. *Photo by Scott Bruhn*

NEXT ISSUE

Look for the review of the Iowa State game and a preview of Texas around Oct. 14

Late Scores Disappoint Defense

*Goal-line stand wasn't as important as last year,
but it still meant a lot to Blackshirts*



Brian Hill

WHAT A difference a year makes.

A year ago against Oklahoma State, Nebraska needed a goal-line stand on the final play of the game to preserve a 24-17 victory at Kansas City.

This time, the goal-line stand came with just under two minutes remaining. On fourth-and-goal at the 1-yard line, OSU tailback Jamaal Fobbs takes a pitch around left end for the touchdown.

Nebraska, with freshman Joe Chrisman at quarterback runs three plays to run out the clock and cap a 38-14 victory. The significance of the Cowboys' late score is that it is the first rushing touchdown against the Cornhusker defense this season.

For all intent and purpose, the game was over after I-back Correll Buckhalter's second touchdown gave Nebraska a 21-0 lead with 3:01 still remaining in the first quarter. The Huskers led 31-0 at half-time, and many of the fans had started for the exits by midway through the final quarter on the crisp, 42-degree fall afternoon.

Nebraska allowed just 45 total yards in the first half, but the Cowboys finished with 273, including sustained drives of 80 and 64 yards in the second half. That left the Huskers' proud defense disappointed, despite the comfortable margin.

"I think our first half play was awesome, but our second-half play stunk," Nebraska rover Mike Brown said. Brown, NU's leading tackler was credited with just two tackles against the Cowboys.

Nebraska, which struggled against Oklahoma State's defensive surprises in 1998, had few problems this time against a Cowboy unit that entered the

game ranked third nationally in total defense at 182.3 yards per game. The Huskers more than doubled that total with 385 total yards, but OSU was without its best defensive player — linebacker Kenyatta Wright, who was sidelined with a broken hand.

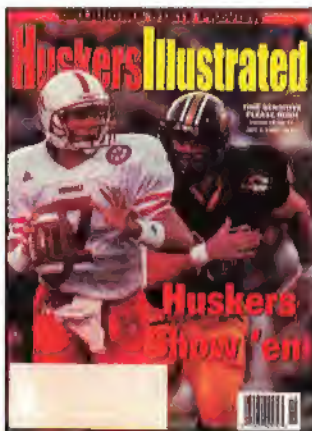
The Cowboys were also without starting quarterback Tony Lindsay, who missed his third straight game recovering from a knee injury. His replacements — sophomore B.J. Tiger and freshman Ben Bowling — were under constant pressure from the Nebraska defense and were 0-5 passing in the first half. They finished 7-21 for 85 yards.

All-in-all, it was a very convincing win against a team that took Nebraska to the final play a year ago at Arrowhead Stadium.

You'll find much, much more on victory No. 5 in this issue. And, as usual, you'll find a preview of the next opponent — the Iowa State Cyclones, who like Oklahoma State, will have two weeks to prepare for Nebraska.

Contributing editor Mike Babcock takes a look at three players — guard Toniui Fonoti, center/deep snapper John Garrison and rover Taylor Gehman — who are seeing playing time as true freshmen.

And it may be only early October, but the start of basketball practice is right around the corner. Curt McKeever takes a look at the Husker men's basketball team in From The Beat. Next week, he'll take a look at the women's team. ■



Got Something To Say?

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VOLUME 19, NUMBER 12
ISSUE 9911

Huskers Illustrated

**EDITOR,
GENERAL MANAGER**
Brian Hill

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Mike Babcock

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Mark Derowitsch, James Hale,
Todd Henrichs, Curt McKeever,
Bob Schaller, Steve Sipple,
Nebraska Sports Information
Office

**CONTRIBUTING
PHOTOGRAPHERS**
Scott Bruhn, Nebraska Sports
Information Office

**SPORTS MARKETING
& ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**
Jeff Tudor

NATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR
G Associates Inc.

Huskers Illustrated (ISSN 0279-3474) is published monthly January through May and August, bi-monthly June/July and weekly September through mid-December except open dates. Single issue cost \$2.95; subscription rate for one year (18 issues) is \$44.95. First Class postage is available for an additional charge of \$18.00 per year. Foreign postage \$34.00.

Huskers Illustrated is published by Landmark Publications, Inc., 601 Taylorsville Road, Shelbyville, Ky., 40065, (502) 633-4334. Periodicals postage paid at Shelbyville, Ky., and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Huskers Illustrated*, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501-3222.

Address all editorial-related correspondence to *Huskers Illustrated*, 3210 NW 3rd St., Lincoln, Neb. 68521.

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For Subscription Inquiries mail to P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501-3222. Allow six to eight weeks for response. Give old and new addresses and enclose latest mailing address label when writing about your subscription.

Customer Service
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Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(Central Time)

HI Online

<http://www.huskersillustrated.com>

E-Mail Addresses

Editor: Hleditor@aol.com

Advertising/marketing: jtudor@navix.net

Things Happen Fast

**Tenopir says
blocking schemes
too complex for
most freshmen**

Toni Fonoti is only the third true freshman to play in Nebraska's offensive line since the NCAA restored freshman eligibility in 1972. The others were Will Shields and Jake Young.

Fonoti is impressive physically, standing 6-foot-4 and weighing 329 pounds.

Physical maturity alone isn't sufficient to play in the offensive line, according to Coach Milt Tenopir, who has worked with five Outland Trophy winners during his 25-plus seasons at Nebraska.

"If he (Fonoti) knows where he's going, he's pretty impressive," Tenopir said recently.

"But things happen pretty fast, too. If you haven't been through it a few times, things happen so quick, it's pretty hard to adjust. It's more a maturing process than anything.

"You have to be physical but you also have to be intelligently physical."

The blocking schemes are too complex for most freshmen to learn in the short time they have before the season begins.

"Most high school kids who come into any university program have probably faced two or three fronts all year, spacing-wise," said Tenopir. "These kids might, in the course of a ballgame, see 10 or 12 different looks. It only takes half a step to make a different scheme. Depending on spacing, the 34-trap, which is our mid-line fullback trap, could become 10 or 12 different



Backup left guard Toni Fonoti (middle) plays between sophomore center Dominic Raiola (left) and senior left tackle Adam Julch.

plays, just by alignment."

Senior Adam Julch, the starting left tackle, remembers being overwhelmed by the system initially. "I thought, when I came in: 'I'm a pretty smart guy. I can handle this,'" he said. "But the first three days I was snowballed. I didn't know my right from my left. It's a very hard system, very complicated.

"Technique is the most important thing in the offensive line."

Sophomore Dave Volk, who became the starting

right tackle after senior Jason Schwab was sidelined by a knee injury during preseason practice, also was overwhelmed, and not just by the system.

His concern was dealing with All-American defenders Jason Peter and Grant Wistrom while playing on the scout team. "There wasn't much else on my mind," Volk said with a smile.

"Jason and Grant pretty much took up most of my thoughts that whole season.

"It was all right . . . it

was kind of a nightmare."

Going against players such as Peter and Wistrom in practice for a season, however, "was a great experience for everybody who came in on that line," said Volk. "Our whole freshman line was basically that scout team. Who never really beat those guys, but coming through the season, you could tell there was improvement. I think going against guys of that caliber helped a lot. We had fun."

In retrospect they did, anyway. ■

YOU CAN SEE IT IN THEIR EYES

There's no substitute for experience, according to Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride, who recalled former Cornhusker Chris Spachman's first varsity appearance in the early 1980s. "He was a freshman," McBride said. "I turned around and asked him if he was ready . . . his eyes looked like two saucers.

"He went in and he sacked the quarterback. I don't think anybody blocked him. He just ran in there and sacked the quarterback and instead of staying in the game, he ran back off the field and stood next to me. A couple of years ago, I said: 'Remember when we put you in?' He says: 'Coach, I don't even remember what happened. I couldn't feel my feet touching the ground when I ran on the field.'

"That's what those young guys are like. What happens is, the ball's snapped and all of a sudden they forget everything they learned in practice. Pretty soon, once they calm down, they start getting confidence in themselves. A young player gets out in front of 70,000 or 80,000 people . . .

"Practice, oh that's easy. I can go to practice. But all of a sudden in a game, things don't look the same. They're faster. Things happen faster."

HEISMAN HOPEFUL

Weakside linebacker Julius Jackson as a Heisman Trophy candidate?

USA Today's Steve Wieberg included Jackson among three Big 12 players who "merit watching" in a story about Heisman Trophy candidates on the Monday after the Missouri game. The others from the Big 12 were Oklahoma quarterback Josh Heupel and Iowa State tailback Darren Davis.

Wieberg described Jackson, who scored twice on turnovers against Southern Mississippi and set up two touchdowns with turnovers against Missouri, as "the main man in the Huskers' offense."

The story included a photo of Jackson running for a touchdown.

"I was working on my (Heisman) pose last night," Jackson said the next day.

Heisman Trophy candidate or not, "Julius has really turned it up a notch," said defensive tackle Loran Kaiser. "That guy has been a phenom lately. I think they call him 'Captain Turnover.'"

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride is now calling the senior from Gainesville, Texas, "magnet fingers." After the Southern Mississippi game, however, he described Jackson's hands as being like the bottoms of skillets. "But everything he's gotten his hands on, he's caught."

After Jackson's interception in the Missouri game, "I thought I was having the big one," McBride said, adding on a serious note: "He's really done a tremendous job for us."

Even so, the return of senior Eric Johnson will be welcomed. "When you have that ability to alternate people in the middle of the game, or by series or however each coach does it, you put fresh legs on the field, it makes a big difference. You get in tough games. It comes down to the fourth quarter and if you have fresher people in, your chances are that much better to win."

QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?

TACKLE THIS

Senior rover Mike Brown should move into the top 10 in career tackles at Nebraska in the next couple of games. But it's almost certain that he won't challenge for the top spot.

Jerry Murtaugh is the Cornhuskers' leading tackler in the modern era with 342.

Murtaugh was a linebacker for Coach Bob Devaney, during a time when freshmen weren't eligible for varsity competition. He played only three seasons (1968, 1969 and 1970), which makes his record total all the more remarkable. He was a co-captain on the 1970 national championship team.

He also earned All-America recognition that season.

Murtaugh has served as an assistant coach at Omaha Creighton Prep the last five seasons.

Tackle statistics on tackles have been kept by Nebraska only since the mid-1960s, so there are no records indicating the career totals of those such as Tom "Trainwreck" Novak.

Lee Kunz, a linebacker for Coach Tom Osborne during the late 1970s, holds the single-season record for tackles, with 141 in 1977, his junior season. Murtaugh's 132 in 1970 rank second on that list, while Kunz is second to Murtaugh on the career list with 276 tackles in three seasons.

Others in the top five are: Clete Pillen (273), Steve Damkroger (269) and Ed Stewart (257). Brown would have to pass Broderick Thomas (242) to move into the top 10.



SOLICH SAID

— About senior punter Dan Hadenfeldt: "Really, you look around the country, and I don't know if there's a guy we'd trade him for. He does an awful lot for us in terms of field position, getting us in position to put points on the board. He gets the ball off very quickly, gets great hang time with it and yet great distance with it. I really feel good about what he's accomplished."

— About sophomore cornerback Keyuo Craver: "He's always had excellent athletic skill, and I think he's just a tremendously confident player along with that now. And, of course, he's still a young player in our system, so it's not all that easy to develop great, great confidence. We think he'll just continue to contribute in a tremendous fashion to what we get done this year."

IN PASSING . . .

— Defensive tackle Loran Kaiser: "If it weren't for the fans, there wouldn't be much to play for."

— Quarterback Eric Crouch: "We can get 400 or 500 yards a game against defenses if we just execute."

— Melody Peterson, who would have challenged for playing time at point guard for Coach Paul Sanderford's Husker women's basketball team, apparently will have to sit out this season after transferring from Stanford, where she had been a starter as a sophomore. Although she sat out last season, she was enrolled at Stanford. She will be able to practice with the Huskers and will be a senior next season.

— The Husker women's cross country team cracked the polls thanks to an impressive showing at the Roy Griak Invitational on Sept. 25. The FinishLynx Poll, released Sept. 27, had the Huskers at No. 15, the first time this season the team has earned national recognition.

— Jenny Benson's penalty kick 22 minutes into the contest was all fourth-ranked Nebraska needed as the Huskers downed No. 8 Texas A&M, 1-0, Oct. 1 in front of an A&M school-record crowd of 2,757 at College Station, Texas. With the win, the Huskers (9-1-1) moved atop the Big 12 standings with a 3-0 conference mark. The win, NU's fifth over a top-25 team this season, was the Huskers' first in College Station and A&M's first home loss since a 3-0 setback to Santa Clara on Oct. 18, 1998.

— Former Cornhusker I-back Calvin Jones (1991-93) is coaching the running backs at Omaha Central High School and working security there. Jones is a Central graduate. ■

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Buckhalter Knows About Second Chances

Junior I-back says players should go to the coaches if they have a problem



Mike BABCOCK

THE DECISION WAS HIS. Frank Solich wanted to make that clear.

When DeAngelo Evans asked to be reinstated after quitting the team following the California game, Solich said no, but only after much deliberation and consulting of others.

"I did want to get a general feel of our coaches," he said. "I did want to get a general feel of our players. I don't think you can ever not take

into consideration your team's feelings."

So he asked the players for a show of hands in favor of Evans' return.

Correll Buckhalter was among the few who raised their hands.

"I raised my hand because he's my friend," Buckhalter said after the Missouri game.

"But also, everybody deserves a second chance."

Buckhalter knows that from firsthand experience. The junior I-back from Collins, Miss., skipped three days of practices and meetings following the season-opener at Iowa.

He was upset about carrying the ball only three times, so he walked away, a rash decision and one he came to regret.

"Instead of going to the coach, talking to him, I took things into my own hands, which is not right," Buckhalter said. "You always go to the coaches if you have a problem."

When he finally met with Solich, with the urging and encouragement of his dad, "we were able to work things out," he said. And after serving a one-game suspension against California, "I was able to come back and get a little more playing time, make things happen."

He came off the bench to rush for 132 yards and a touchdown on only 14 carries against Missouri, to become the first Cornhusker to rush for 100 yards since last season's Kansas State game.

And he broke a big run, something that hadn't happened for the offense since the Iowa game.

Late in the third quarter, Buckhalter ran 57 yards before being tackled just short of the goal line by cornerback Carlos Posey, the Tigers' fastest player with 4:29 speed in the 40.

Posey also had an angle. Otherwise, he would have scored.

"I made a cut. Then I had to make another cut," Buckhalter said of what was Nebraska's longest run from scrimmage.

"I was trying to run my best, and he just caught me at the 1-yard line. I was kind of disappointed because I think I

should have dove. But at the time, I wasn't thinking."

He was simply running on the instinct.

The effort was more important than the result, anyway.

Buckhalter "showed very tough running inside and was able to get the tough yardage when it was needed," Solich said. "But what he also showed was excellent movement, the ability to make the big play, make cutbacks against the grain, make a move on a guy, produce great plays."

"And, you know, that's something that was great to see for our football team."



Correll Buckhalter came off the bench to rush for 132 yards against Missouri.

Even though his performance against Missouri didn't earn him the start against Oklahoma State the next week, it was unmistakable evidence of Buckhalter's importance to the team.

With Evans gone, Buckhalter and junior Dan Alexander will have to carry the rushing load if the Cornhuskers are to contend for the Big 12 title, and whatever else that might mean.

Buckhalter certainly is qualified to accept that responsibility. He's a proven player, leading the team in rushing last season with 799 yards and eight touchdowns on 142 carries.

He started seven games and played when others couldn't, despite nagging injuries of his own.

Because of those injuries, "I don't think I was in the right frame of running hard every play," he said.

"So I took that into consideration this year, that I'm going to run hard every play and try to make big plays. Whatever I can do to help this team be a winner, that's what I'll do."

"Right now I'm 100-percent, definitely. Hopefully, if the Lord is willing, I'll be able to stay healthy like this through the whole season and make some things happen for our offense."

Evans could have done those things, too, if he hadn't quit. Buckhalter didn't agree with some of the things Evans said in anger after quitting the team and not being allowed to return.

But he hasn't turned his back on his friend. The two talked on the phone on the Thursday before the Missouri game. "I'm still keeping in contact with him, whatever he's doing, encouraging him and letting him know I still love him," Buckhalter said. "I hope he's successful in whatever he does."

That says as much about Buckhalter as anything he could do on the field. ■

Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 20 years. Mike can be reached at mdb@inetnebr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.

Younger Brother Makes Name For Himself

*Redshirt freshman Chris Kelsay
is larger version of his successful brother*



**Bob
SCHALLER**

WHEN MISSOURI quarterback James Dougherty headed toward the sideline on a scramble against Nebraska, he didn't like what he saw.

Sure, the Missouri quarterback had to avoid getting hit by either Nebraska cornerback Keyuo Craver or safety Clint Finley. But neither of those guys weighs more than 205 pounds.

More scary, and lurking just in Dougherty's blind spot, was rush end Chris Kelsay. Dougherty liked it even less later in the game when Kelsay got a clean shot at him and recorded a sack.

Kelsay, who wears the same No. 57 his brother Chad wore the last four years at Nebraska, looks a lot like his brother — in the face, and there only.

"That's about it," defensive coordinator Charlie McBride says of the similarities. "Chris is bigger and quicker."

This Kelsay comes only in the economy size — already. Just a redshirt freshman, Chris already packs 272 pounds on his 6-foot-5 frame. That's amazing because when he first came in as a redshirt about 16 months ago, he was below 230 pounds.

This spring, he was at 255 pounds. And of the added weight, none of it is fat. Chad's struggles were with a lack of quickness and an inability to add much muscle during his time with NU — though Chad did play as a true freshman.

Chad played in 46 games and was a starter his last two seasons. As a senior in 1998, he was a second-team All-Big 12 selection as well as Nebraska's Lifter of the Year and a co-captain. He was third on the team in tackles with 72, including a career-high 11 at Texas A&M, and added five sacks. Off the field, he was a GTE/CoSIDA First-Team Academic All-American. Chad was a second-team academic All-America selection as a junior.

"Chad was the best role model I could have asked for, on and off the field," Chris said. "This is a lot more fun than running with the scout team each week. You spend the first year here learning the system and putting on muscle. That year of experience really helps for when you get in there."

Chad is now a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers, after being drafted in the seventh round. The night before the final cuts were announced three weeks ago was the same night before the Huskers were to open the season at Iowa.

"It was funny because he was really more concerned about me," Chris said. "Not a lot of kids have a chance to

grow up and have someone as special as him as a big brother."

Chad ended up making the team.

Of course, in the past two years, being a "little brother" of a Husker player and coming to Nebraska was the thing to do — Mark Vedral followed Jon, Dion Booker followed Michael, and Tracey Wistrom followed Grant to Nebraska.

"There's a tradition of that here," Chris said. "From this period of time (in the 1990s), it kind of started with the Peter brothers. But I don't like to be compared to Chad. We do things differently. Of course, I hope I do things right and do everything in order, so I can have the success Chad had. But I want to make my own name."

He's already started doing that. Chris has excellent footwork, as he showed in high school, averaging 16 points and 8.4 rebounds a game on the way to twice being selected all-state. He also finished fifth in the Class B shot put. He holds the Husker record for rush ends in the pro-agility run, so he's got, as they say, the whole package. And — oh yeah — he's an honor student. He was selected to the 1998 Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll.

"I don't view Chris as a freshman," McBride said. "His whole senior year (at Auburn) High School, he was around the program because Chad was in it. Then, last year, of course, he was a big part of the system. He

was third-team at rush end though we were able to redshirt him because of who we had.

"So even though now he's a freshman in terms of eligibility, he's really in his third year of the program."

So will he be another Chad, or even better?

"Whoa, whoa — hold on a minute," McBride said. "Chad Kelsay was a heckuva a football player and a heckuva young man. Chris has a lot of learning to do and a lot of improving in front of him if he'll reach that level."

But if he does?

"Hmm," McBride said. "OK, I'll admit that he could really be something. That'd be fun to watch."

Unless you're holding a football and he's coming right at you. ■



Chris Kelsay (left) followed brother Chad as a standout at Auburn High School and now, as a rush end, wearing No. 57 for the Cornhuskers.



Bob Schaller covers the Huskers for the Scottsbluff Star-Herald. He has also written several books, including "Touchdown Tommie" and "Roar of Silence: The Kenny Walker Story." Bob can be reached at schallerc@aol.com.

A Lot Of New Pieces To Fit Together

Recovering Belcher pushing himself to make it back for 1999-2000 season



Curt McKEEVER

IF DANNY NEE WANTED a sure thing, he'd probably be doing something besides coaching the 1999-2000 Nebraska men's basketball team.

As the Oct. 16 opening practice drew near, Nee couldn't even say for sure that he'd be able to mold his Cornhusker squad around senior guard Cookie Belcher, who's on the mend from major wrist surgery performed in early May.

And, after three-year starting forward Larry Florence, Nee couldn't say he had anybody else with more than a year's worth of playing experience at NU under his belt.

But feel no pity for the new dean of the Big 12 Conference because he doesn't sound like he's expecting a woeful season. Far from it.

Ask Nee to paint a picture for his 14th Nebraska roster, and he'll tell you it reminds him of the 1988 Oklahoma team.

Oh, by the way, that Sooner squad played in the NCAA championship game.

"I see a very similar look in athleticism," Nee said.

Belcher and Florence are cut from that mold, but the look really begins to take shape with four incoming junior college transfers and junior guard Rodney Fields, another JUCO who redshirted last season after having leg surgery.

At 6-foot 8, 270 pounds, former Missouri forward George Mazyck, who played at Coffeyville (Kan.) CC last season, has a build that is downright intimidating (even though he's still rehabilitating from knee surgery). And if all he does is, as Belcher said, "get under people's skin," he'll be doing his job.

Steffon Bradford, 6-6 and a no-fat 240, has a Charles Barkley-like physique and should do more than stare down foes. He averaged 18.9 points and 7.9 rebounds for Compton (Calif.) CC last year.

Kimani Ffriend gives Nee the shot-blocker he's always seemed to find, and he probably has better offensive skills than Venson Hamilton, last year's Big 12 Conference Player of the Year. Ffriend averaged 18.2 points, 9.5 rebounds and 5.4 blocks last year for Gulf Coast (Fla.) CC.

And at point guard, NU will have two players who can light it up from outside in Danny Walker and Cary Cochran.

Walker also comes from Compton, where he shot 41 percent from three-point range while averaging 15.1 points and 5 assists. Cochran, who hit 39.8 percent of his threes, is coming off a solid finish to his freshman season. He tied a school record by hitting seven treys in NU's second-round NIT loss at Texas Christian, and his ball-handling skills have noticeably improved.

Sophomore forward Louis Truscott showed flashes of becoming a blossoming star during an up-and-down rookie

year. And in Fields, the Huskers have a versatile power guard who loves to play defense and is able to create more for himself offensively than Belcher.

All of that weaponry has Belcher pushing himself to get back.

"I think this year's team is the most athletic since I've been here," he said. "We've got all different types of players. We've got strong players. We've got big men who like to run the floor. We've got guards who can really handle the ball. We've got a team that likes to get up and down the court. I think it's something the fans will want to watch."

Considering all the new pieces to this puzzle, Nee will face a heavy dose of teaching during the preseason. But he also believes that he's got the kind of horses that will be easy to turn free.

"Is it our most athletic team ever? The NIT championship team (in 1996) was pretty athletic. But our big guys are mobile, our guards and wings are quick," Nee said. "I think we've got a nice variety. We've got some shooters and some slashers. We've got kids that are fast."

To accommodate them, Nee is installing a new offense that stresses all-out mayhem. Expect to see defensive pressing and players racing to the offensive end. The difference, at least offensively, is that it's not necessarily running to designated position spots but more of a first-come, first-serve setup.

"We're going to be a team where you've got to let us play to our abilities,

not try to limit players to fit the type of system that Coach Nee has, and I think he's realized that," Belcher said. "The first few weeks of practice are going to be real key for us. We've got to get everybody to know what they're doing. But I think we've got some smart players on the team, (and) I think we've got some people on the team who like to lead and dedicate themselves to help others."

Nebraska will obviously be better off if Belcher is doing his teaching while on the court. A third-team all-league pick last year and one of the nation's top defenders, Belcher could go as deep as the sixth game before he'd have to decide whether to take a medical redshirt or continue on.

But he's probably more apt to make a decision before the opener. Belcher wants want to be 100 percent out of the gate because he knows once it swings open, the Huskers are going to be off and running, with little worry about setting too fast a pace.

"Potentially, I feel it can be a great team," Nee said, "if we could just get everyone healthy and get some things going." ■



Cookie Belcher's health could be a key to the Nebraska season.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.

Cyclones Relish Week to Recover

Iowa State licking its wounds after near-miss against Kansas State

Disappointed? Yes. Upset? Yes. But not demoralized.

That was Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney's take on his team's reaction to a 35-28 loss to Kansas State Sept. 25, a game which the Cyclones led 28-7 at halftime.

"I like the way the team handled the loss," McCarney said. "No tears. No crying. Just very, very upset, the players and coaches alike. It's a sign of maturity. We sure aren't where we want to be, but they know

IOWA STATE			
Record 3-1			
S2	Indiana St.	W, 33-7	
S11	Iowa	W, 17-10	
S18	@ UNLV	W, 24-0	
S25	Kansas St.	L, 35-28	
O9	@ Nebraska		
O16	@ Missouri		
O23	Colorado		
O30			
N6	@ Texas Tech		
N13	Oklahoma		
N20	@ Kansas		

NEBRASKA			
Record 5-0			
S2	@ Iowa	W, 42-7	
S11	Cl. Iowa	W, 45-0	
S18	So. Mississippi	W, 20-1	
S25	@ Missouri	W, 40-1	
O9	Oklahoma St.	W, 38-1	
O16	Iowa St.		
O23	@ Texas		
O30	@ Kansas		
N6	Texas A&M		
N13	Kansas St.		
N20	@ Colorado		

"I'm looking forward to correcting the mistakes and moving on," McCarney said. "I'm still proud of my team and glad to be 3-1 coming out of the first month of football."

SPECIAL TEAMS WOES

Some of the mistakes the Cyclones hope to correct occurred in the kicking game. ISU had a field goal blocked in the second quarter and missed a 42-yarder in the fourth quarter.

And Kansas State's Allen went

they had one of the top teams and in the country down, and we didn't put them away."

Iowa State had more than 300 yards in total offense in the first half but couldn't keep up the pace after intermission, and Kansas State came back with three long touchdown drives and a school-record 94-yard punt by David Allen for a score.

"Nobody was celebrating at halftime," McCarney said. "I don't think we got complacent. Kansas State just out-toughed us in the second half."

"I want my kids to learn from that, what a great example that is. It tears our hearts out to have this happen to us, but it's a great example by Kansas State and its players and coaches, that no matter what the circumstances, you can come back and win a football game."

Iowa State started the season 3-0, with wins over Indiana State, Iowa and UNLV. McCarney said he was happy to have a week off between the near miss against Kansas State and the Oct. 9 game at Nebraska.

"This is a great time for an open week," McCarney said. "We had a great opportunity to be sitting here 4-0 right now, but they're ready to go back to the practice field and make sure we get better this week."

The Cyclones missed their chance to be 4-0 for the first time since 1980 and an opportunity to knock off a ranked foe for the first time since they beat Kansas State in 1993.

Tentative 2 Deeps

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

SE	3	Matt Davison**	6-1	180	Jr
	9	Wilson Thomas	6-5	210	Fr
LT	69	Adam Julch***	6-5	320	Sr
	66	Jon Rutherford*	6-3	295	So.
LG	63	James Sherman***	6-4	295	Sr
	77	Toni Fonoti	6-4	330	Fr
C	54	Dominic Raica*	6-2	295	So
	51	Matt Baldwin**	6-2	285	Sr
RG	55	Russ Hochstet**	6-3	280	Jr
	64	Steve Aistadt	6-5	275	So.
RT	75	Dave Volk*	6-5	295	So
	58	Kyle Kollmorgen*	6-5	280	So
TE	85	T.J. DeBates***	6-3	250	Sr
and	87	Tracey Wistrom	6-5	220	So.
QB	7	Eric Crouch*	6-1	185	So
	14	Jeff Perino*	6-2	210	Sr
FB	15	Willie Miller**	6-1	240	Jr
	35	Tyrone Uhler	6-0	230	Fr
IB	38	Dan Alexander**	6-0	245	Jr.
	36	Correll Buckhalter**	6-0	225	Jr.
WB	82	Sean Applegate**	5-9	185	Sr.
and	12	Bobby Newcombe**	6-0	195	Jr
PK	26	Josh Brown	5-2	185	Fr.

Tentative 2 Deeps

Iowa State Defense					
		Scott Hayward*			
		James Elmon*			
		James Reed			
		Robert Brannon*			
		Nigel Therpe*			
		Casey Shelton			
		Robert Brannon*			
		Kevin DeRonde*			
		Eric Weiland			
		Matt Wood			
		Dave Brock*			
		Chris Whitaker			
		Jason Beckom*			
		Andrew Moser			
		Jeff Waters*			
		Dave Cassatt			
		Jerome Powers			
		Ryan Sloth			
		Dustin Avey*			
		Jason Perrotti			
		Green Ansley			
		Alf Austin*			
		Carl Gomez	6-2	201	Jr.

IOWA STATE OFFENSE

SE	68	Chris Anthony**	6-3	198	Jr.
or	32	J.J. Moses	5-6	173	Jr
LT	72	Bill Mersau**	6-5	302	Sr
	55	Jared Buckner	6-3	275	So.
LG	70	Ben Beaudot**	6-4	300	Jr
	57	Josh Rank*	6-4	280	Jr
C	63	Ben Bruns**	6-3	300	Jr
	68	Zach Butler	6-4	280	Fr.
RG	76	Ryan Gerke*	6-4	300	Sr
	77	Brian Donahue	6-4	280	So.
RT	75	Marcel Howard*	6-5	302	So
	67	Corey Hanner*	6-4	300	So
TE	31	Mike Banks*	6-4	249	So
	80	Andy Stensrud**	6-7	277	Jr
FL	3	Damien Groce*	5-10	182	Sr
	1	Mich. Brantley***	6-0	190	Sr
QB	18	Sage Rosenfels**	6-4	218	Jr
	4	Derrick Walker	6-2	228	Jr
TB	28	Darren Davis***	5-9	190	Sr
	2	Ennis Hayward*	6-0	210	So.
FB	43	Hez Jackson*	6-1	236	Sr
	23	Robert Lewis*	5-8	226	Jr
PK	95	Miko McKnight	6-3	207	So.

PICKS

Brian Hill
Editor

Nebraska 45, Iowa State 7

The Nebraska offense appears to have found itself, and the Husker defense continues to be dominant, except for a slight letdown late against Oklahoma State. The Blackshirts were upset by that, which does not bode well for Iowa State.

Mike Habcock
Contributing Editor

Nebraska 49, Iowa State 10

It figures to be a long night for Cyclone tailback Darren Davis because of the Blackshirts. Any points Iowa State might score will be against the reserves as things get out of hand. This game isn't likely to make for good television viewing after the first quarter or so.

Terry Douglass
Grand Island Independent
Sports Editor

Nebraska 56, Iowa State 10

The Cyclones may have played their best football of the season against Kansas State. Unfortunately for Coach Dan McCarney's crew, it only lasted for a half, and it wasn't quite enough to beat the Wildcats. It will take four quarters of ISU's best to even stay close in Lincoln. That might be a little too much to ask for.

Bill Seals
Cyclone Illustrated
Editor

Nebraska 31, Iowa State 14

The Cyclones can keep it close for one half, look at the K-State game. However, injuries and the lack of depth at some positions will make it hard to do so for much longer. Plus, the game is in Lincoln, and it is Homecoming Weekend. If Nebraska has championship aspirations, this is a game that the Huskers can't take lightly. Taking ISU lightly will probably not happen again this season after K-State barely got out of Ames alive.

almost untouched on his long punt return that cut the ISU lead to 28-21.

"It was inconsistent," McCarney said. "We have a lot of work to do there. We need to teach them how to kick and cover with confidence."

The Cyclones must also work on defending the option and short pass

entering the Nebraska game.

Last year, ISU ranked 103rd in rushing defense and 95th in pass defense, and those were improvements over the 1997 marks.

CLIMBING THE CHARTS

Senior tailback Darren Davis rushed for 152 yards against the Wildcats, but only 21 came in the second half.

Davis has 3,082 career rushing yards, No. 3 on the Cyclones' all-time list. Davis passed Mike Strachan (3,010, 1972-74). Dexter Green (1975-78) is second with 3,437 rushing yards, and Davis' brother Troy (1994-96, who had back-to-back 2,000-yard seasons, is No. 1 at 4,382.

Darren Davis had his fifth consecutive 100-yard game, tying him for the second-best string in school history with Dwayne Crutchfield (1981), Green (1977-78) and Strachan (1972). The game marked the 12th time Davis has rushed for more than 100 yards in a game. With his next 100-yard game, he would tie Crutchfield for third all-time with 13.

NO DE CONTROVERSY

Sage Rosenfels has a firm hold on the starting quarterback's job. He was 11 for 24 for 156 yards against K-State, with one interception. He ran 10 times for 41 yards, including a 10-yard touchdown. McCarney praised backup Derrick Walker for his attitude. Walker had entered fall camp as the co-No. 1 quarterback.

"Derrick is very unselfish, a team guy all the way," McCarney said. "Sage is our starter right now, and we're doing a lot of good things with him at the helm. Derrick has to be game ready. The old saying that you're one snap away from being the starter, that's the truth."

INJURY REPORT

ISU will likely be without center Ben Bruns (knee), nose tackle Ryan Harklau (foot) and cornerback Jamarcus Powers (foot) against the Huskers, and McCarney said it is very likely Powers is out for the year.

The status of offensive lineman Josh Rank (migraines) is week to week, as is that of safety Jason Parrott (arm). Parrott was to have his broken arm X-rayed again, McCarney said.

Cornerback Breon Ansley (knee) and backup center Zach Butler (ankle) are expected back.

STICKING TO PLAN

McCarney was asked last week whether he had considered wavering



Darren Davis enters the Nebraska game with five consecutive 100-yard plus rushing efforts.

from the plan he developed five years ago for bringing Iowa State back to respectability. Never, he said.

"We've had great administration and support and a tremendous network of fund-raising by Gene Smith, our athletic director, to upgrade all the things we needed to give us a chance to be competitive," McCarney said. "The thing that makes it tough is the level of competition. Any time you're trying to have a major, dramatic turnaround and rebuild and bring something back that really bottomed out, it makes it tougher with the schedule you play."

"But we stuck to our guns. We haven't compromised our values or priorities. There have been a lot of tough days for our staff and players alike, and we've hung together. We're not where we want to be, but no question we're an improved football team."

LAST YEAR

Last year at Ames, Nebraska took advantage of four ISU turnovers to post a 42-7 victory in snowy conditions on Nov. 7.

Dan Alexander, making his first career start, rushed for 110 yards and three touchdowns, and Nebraska churned out 359 yards on the ground.

The Nebraska defense, meanwhile, limited Davis to 48 yards in 18 carries.

Nebraska has won six straight in the series since the Cyclones upset the then seventh-ranked Huskers 19-10 in 1992 in Ames. ■

Fast Start

Wistrom's catches help Huskers take 31-0 halftime lead en route to 38-14 victory

**Story by Mike Babcock
Photos by Scott Bruhn**

Tracey Wistrom came up just short of the end zone. So maybe an extra squat lift in the weight room would have made the difference.

"Unfortunately, I wasn't able to drag him one yard more," Wistrom said following Nebraska's 38-14 victory against Oklahoma State. "I don't know, maybe I could have done it."

Actually, Wistrom was brought down by Oklahoma State strong safety J.B. Flowers at the Cowboys' 2-yard line, midway through the first quarter.

But whether 1 yard or 2, the result was the same.

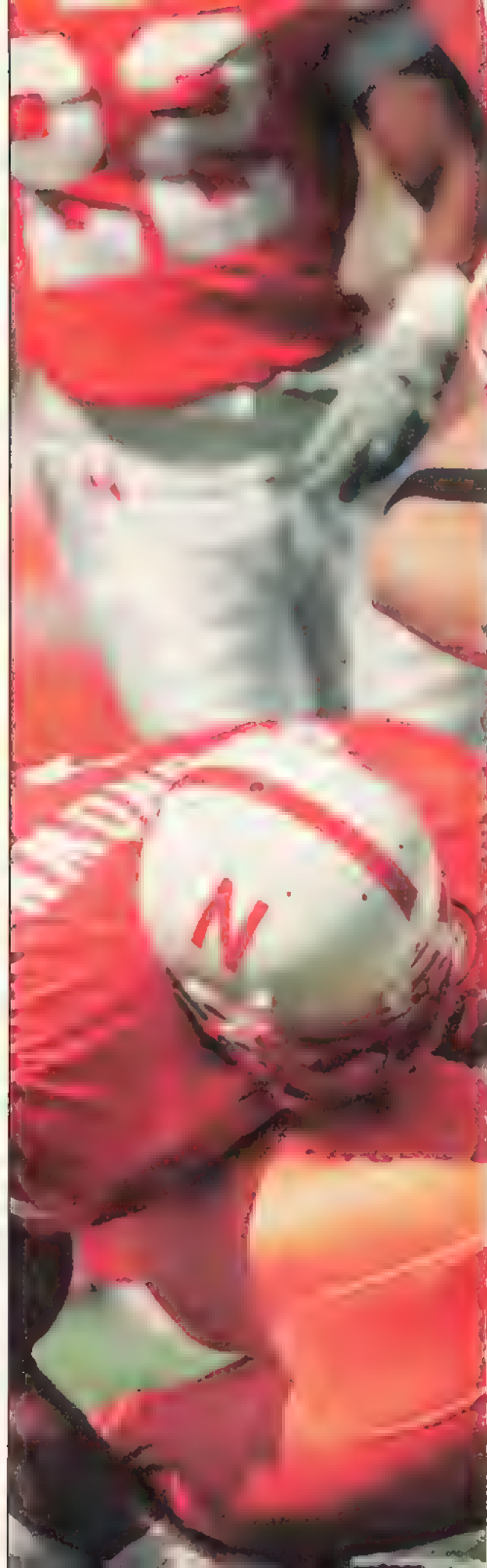
"I was disappointed I didn't get in. I was really happy for the catch. But I really wanted to get in the end zone. I guess that's the way it goes sometimes," said Wistrom.

Besides, all's well that ends well. Wistrom's disappointment delayed a touchdown only briefly as I-back Correll Buckhalter ran, untouched, the final 2 yards on the next play.

Before the first half ended, Wistrom had scored a touchdown, on a 16-yard play-action pass from quarterback Eric Crouch, to make the score 31-0. So much for suspense.

And, it seemed, so much for Nebraska's focus. The Cornhuskers were outscored 14-7 in the second half, a cause for concern for Coach Frank Solich. "It almost appeared to me like it was two different ball-games," he said. "We kind of lost momentum in the second half."

Strongside linebacker Tony Ortiz (right) and rover Mike Brown wrestle down Oklahoma State tailback Nathan Simmons. The Nebraska defense limited the Cowboys to 45 yards in the first half, all on the ground.







Fullback Willie Miller contributed 47 yards, including a 19-yard burst, to a balanced rushing attack that produced 240 yards against the highly ranked Cowboy defense.

Still, it was a fifth-consecutive victory for the Cornhuskers, and "there were enough really good things there to make these guys feel good about themselves," said Solich.

"Yet on the other side of it, there were errors and there were plays that jump out at you that we just need to do a better job with. We need to continue to improve. We need to get better. And they know that. But I think they feel good about some of the things they've accomplished to this point."

Consider, for example, Wistrom's accomplishments against Oklahoma State. The sophomore tight end caught four passes in all, for 116 yards, as Nebraska showed once again that it is capable of attacking through the air as well as on the ground—or instead of

on the ground, if need be.

The Cornhuskers rushed for 240 yards against an aggressive defense geared up to stop the run. And because of that, Oklahoma State left itself vulnerable to play-action passes.

Crouch finished with 7-of-13 completions, for 145 yards and the touchdown to Wistrom.

It wasn't exactly an aerial assault. But it definitely was efficient. And not unexpected.

"I go into every game thinking I'm going to have some opportunities," Wistrom said. "But there are some games you go in that you've got a great opportunity. The California game, I knew their free safeties plugged so hard on play-action (that) I was going to be wide-open sometimes."

Wistrom caught two passes for 102

yards and a touchdown against California.

"And that's kind of what the case was today," he said. "Oklahoma State flies around so much, I thought there were going to be some opportunities for some big plays, like there were."

"They pursue the ball so hard, we had to do a couple of things to keep them honest."

In addition to the play-action passes, Nebraska ran reverses with wingback Bobby Newcombe, who carried four times for 35 yards, an average of 8.8 yards per carry. "I think we caught them off guard a little, and that allowed us to have some big plays," said Newcombe.

He had a 20-yard run. Buckhalter had a 22 yard run, which would have been a 66-yarder for a touchdown if

he could have managed to stay in-bounds. And Wistrom had the biggest play of all, the previously mentioned pass from Crouch, which was good for 47 yards.

Though the Cornhuskers didn't pass a lot, they passed enough to get Oklahoma State's defense off-balance, in much the same way they had at Missouri the week before.

As was the case against the Tigers, Nebraska's first play from scrimmage was a pass, from Crouch to Wistrom, good for 17 yards. The second play was a reverse to Newcombe.

"In the first half I thought we mixed it up pretty well," Solich said. "And I think that's the kind of offense, to a degree, we need to have. It may not be a deal where we get 300 yards rushing."

"But if we're able to make some big plays, which is really a key, and if we're able to keep some drives going and put some points on the board from long drives, then you can have yourself a pretty good offense. So we'll take, certainly, the fact that we have somewhat of a multiple approach."

It's probably a disservice to Nebraska's defense to get this far into an account of the game without so much as a mention. But by now it's assumed the Blackshirts will play well, and they did, at least during the first half.

"We played outstanding football in the first half," said defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. "But I think they beat us in the second half. I think we did a good job of adjusting to what they were doing during the first series of the game, and we held up physically better than we did a year ago."

"Our first unit showed a lot of character, but I'm disappointed in our back-up players."

What Oklahoma State did on its first offensive series, and during much of the first half, was to line up on occasion with eight men on the line of scrimmage, in an attempt to run the ball.

"They really weren't sticking to their game plan," Cornhusker rush end Aaron Wills said. "I think they should have stuck to their game plan, just come out and run their basic offense."

"Once they did that, they started moving the ball a little bit." By then, however, it was too late. The score was 38-0.

That lead was no excuse for Nebraska's play in the second half, however, according to rover Mike Brown. "I think our first half was awesome," he said. "But our second-half play stunk."

4TH & 1 INCHES

Notes And Quotes From The Oklahoma State Game

SHAW RECEIVES SCHOLAR-ATHLETE HONOR

Nebraska senior strongside linebacker Brian Shaw received a \$10,000 Burger King Scholar-Athlete Award during pre-game ceremonies.

The money goes to the university's general scholarship fund.

CROUCH LEADING RUSHER

The Cornhuskers again did not have a 100 yard rusher. Quarterback Eric Crouch led the team, with 61 yards on 11 carries. I-back Correll Buckhalter, who rushed for 132 yards against Missouri, gained 55 yards on 11 carries.

Crouch also is the team's leading rusher on the season with 292 yards.

SAME PASS PLAYS WORK

Tight end Tracey Wistrom's pass receptions for 16 yards and a touchdown and 47 yards and a near-touchdown came on plays that were identical to ones that went for gains of 40 and 30 yards to tight end Sheldon Jackson in last season's Oklahoma State game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. "I think the coaches thought that (play-action pass) was going to be effective again," said Wistrom.

NO SERIOUS INJURIES

Nebraska appeared to come away from the game without any serious injuries. Fullback Willie Miller suffered a sprained left ankle and offensive guard James Sherman suffered a sprained right ankle, while back-up quarterback Jeff Perino suffered a bruised quadriceps.

DAVISON'S STREAK ENDS

Junior split end Matt Davison did not catch a pass to end a string of 20 games in which he had caught at least one. The string began in the Colorado game in 1997.

NOTES AND QUOTES

— Nebraska has won 217 consecutive games when it scores at least 35 points or more.

— The Cornhuskers have had at least two quarterback sacks in every game this season. Weakside linebacker Julius Jackson had a sack. Rush end Chris Kelsay and defensive tackle Loran Kaiser combined for another against Oklahoma State. Kelsay, a redshirted freshman from Auburn, Neb., got his first start as a Cornhusker, stepping in for junior Kyle Vanden Bosch, who was sidelined by an ankle sprain.

— Oklahoma State's 273 yards of total offense were misleading, with most of them coming in the second half, after the game was decided and the reserves were playing. Nebraska used 70 players. The Cowboys managed only 45 yards in the first half, all by rushing. Oklahoma State's first pass completion came with 8:53 remaining in the third quarter.

— Nebraska failed to intercept a pass for the first time this season.

— Oklahoma State Coach Bob Simmons: "I have always said when you play a team like Nebraska that does not beat itself, you can't beat yourself. When you give that kind of team momentum and do not carry out your responsibilities on the football team, you are in for a long day."

— Cowboy quarterback B.J. Tiger, who started in place of an injured Tony Lindsay: "It's hard, especially to work hard and the first play of the game it's a turnover (lost fumble). Things happen, the ball bounces the wrong way and it's a big shift in the momentum. Especially in the first half, after the turnover, my teammates felt down." But, to their credit, they regrouped in the second half.

— Oklahoma State tailback Nathan Simmons, who rushed for 51 yards on 16 carries: "When you have a 21-point barrage like that, it pretty much takes the team out of the game. We are never mentally out of a game. We have to feel like we are always going to win, no matter what situation we get into. As a better ballclub, you get down by 21 points, we have to really around each other and get the job done."

— More Nathan Simmons: "We came out flat. You are playing the No. 6 team in the nation and you come out flat, you are going to get blown off the ball."

— Nebraska's 24-point margin of victory was the lowest in the series at Lincoln since 1988, when the Cornhuskers won 63-42. Oklahoma State has lost 24 consecutive games in the series and hasn't won since 1961. The teams tied at Stillwater in 1973. The series stands at 35-2-1.

— Oklahoma State went into the game ranked third nationally in total defense. Nebraska ranked fourth. The Cornhuskers ranked second against the run and sixth in scoring defense. ■



Rush end Aaron Wills sacks OSU quarterback Ben Bowling for an apparent safety early in the second quarter, but a face mask penalty moved the Cowboys out of danger.

"We weren't playing our responsibilities, and we weren't paying attention to the mental parts of the game. We made a lot of mistakes. I think the defense did a good job of staying fired up, but I was concerned that the momentum was going to start going their way."

The momentum certainly was going Wistrom's way during the first

half.

"I could definitely get used to this," he said. "I was kind of talking to Coach (Ron) Brown after the game and told him it kind of seems like when it rains, it pours for me."

"I don't do anything, or I have a big game."

He was wide-open on the touchdown reception. The safety "bit so

hard on the '19 option' play-action (pass) that anybody could have caught that ball," he said. "It was me, fortunately."

But, he added: "I kind of feel like maybe I should have had two (scores)."

Had he just done an extra lift or two, he might have had the strength to pull away. ■

BY THE NUMBERS

Oklahoma State vs. Nebraska
Oct. 2, 1999 • Lincoln, Nebraska

Score By Quarters

Oklahoma St.	0	0	7	7	—	14
Nebraska	21	10	7	0	—	38

Team Stats

	OSU	NU
First Downs	14	21
Rushing	8	12
Passing	5	6
Penalty	1	3
Rushing Attempts	48	49
Yards Gained Rushing	214	258
Yards Lost Rushing	26	18
Net Yards Rushing	188	240
Net Yards Passing	85	145
Passes Attempted	21	14
Passes Completed	7	7
Had Intercepted	0	0
Total Plays	69	63
Total Net Yards	273	385
Avg. Gain Per Play	4.0	6.1
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	11-82	7-71
Punts-Yards	10-303	6-245
Avg. Per Punt	30.3	40.8
Punt Returns-Yards	4-65	4-33
Interceptions-Yards	0-0	0-0
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	5-108	2-34
Possession Time	30:29	29:31

Scoring

N — Eric Crouch 4-yard run (Josh Brown kick)
N — Correll Buckhalter 2-yard run (Brown kick)
N — Buckhalter 8-yard run (Brown kick)
N — Brown 36-yard field goal
N — Tracey Wistrom 16-yard pass from Crouch (Brown kick)
N — Dan Alexander 6-yard run (Brown kick)
OS — Marcellus Rivers 6-yard pass from B.J. Tiger (Tim Sydnese kick)
OS — Jamaal Fobbs 1-yard run (Sydnese kick)

Att. — 77,740

Temp. — 42

Individual Leaders

OKLAHOMA ST.

Name	Att	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Fobbs, J.	17	67	3.9	30	1
Simmons, N.	16	51	3.2	11	0
Richardson, T.	1	35	35.0	35	0
Tiger, B.J.	8	30	3.8	11	0
Brown, K.	3	8	2.7	8	0
Haferly, J.	2	3	1.5	2	0
Bowling, B.	1	-6	-6.0	0	0

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Tiger, B.J.	3-11-0	27.3	40	1
Bowling, B.	4-10-0	40.0	45	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Richardson, T.	2	28	14.0	20	0
Howell, E.	2	11	5.5	7	0
Fobbs, J.	1	26	26.0	26	0
White, C.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Rivers, M.	1	6	6.0	6	1

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Edwards, S.	8	303	33.7	48
Team	1	0	0.0	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Richardson, T.	4	85	16.2	39	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Fobbs, J.	4	93	23.3	31	0
White, R.	1	15	15.0	15	0

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Flowers, J.B.	2	6	8	0	0	0
Howe, J.E.	5	0	5	0	0	0
Leves, D.	3	2	5	0	0	0
Edwards, A.	2	2	4	1-6	0	0
Cato, R.	3	0	3	0	0	0
Grillen, R.	3	0	3	0	0	0
Massey, C.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Akin, Z.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Warner, Z.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Mallory, C.	1	2	3	1-4	0	0
Go den, J.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Porter, A.	0	3	3	0	0	0
Williams, K.	2	0	2	1-1	0	0
Tarrel Knau-s	1	1	2	0	0	0
Shepherd, J.	1	1	2	0	0	0

NEBRASKA

Name	Att	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Crouch, E.	11	61	5.5	13	1
Buckhalter, C.	11	55	5.0	22	2
Miller, W.	8	47	7.8	19	0
Newcombe, B.	4	35	8.8	20	0
Alexander, D.	11	24	2.2	13	1
John, T.	3	9	3.0	6	0
Perino, J.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Diedrick, D.	1	3	3.0	3	0

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Crouch, E.	7-13-0	53.8	145	1
Perino, J.	0-1-0	0.0	0	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Wistrom, T.	2	116	29.0	47	1
Applegate, S.	2	26	12.5	14	0
London, F.	1	4	4.0	4	0

Name	Att.	Good	LNG
Brown, J.	2	1	36

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Hadenfeldt, D.	8	245	40.8	45

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Shaw, B.	1	22	22.0	22	0
Walker, J.	3	11	3.7	8	0

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Stella, R.	2	34	17.0	20	0

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Brown, R.	5	4	9	1-7	0	0
Po, K.	2	5	7	0	0	0
Ortiz, T.	2	3	5	1-1	0	0
Wills, A.	2	2	4	0	0	0
Slechts, J.	3	2	5	1-1	0	0
Booker, D.	4	0	4	0	0	0
Shaw, B.	4	0	4	1-1	0	0
Craver, K.	2	2	4	1-2	0	0
Jackson, J.	1	2	3	1-8	0	1-6
Kelsey, C.	0	4	4	1-3	0	1/2-3
Kelsey, C.	1	2	3	1-3	0	1/2-3
Finley, C.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Brown, M.	0	2	2	0	0	0



Backup 1-back Correll Buckhalter rushed for 55 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the first quarter.

SEASON STATS

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	TD
Crouch, E.	5	60	292	58.4	7
Alexander, D.	5	58	238	47.6	3
Buckhalter, C.	4	29	210	52.5	3
Miller, W.	6	23	114	22.8	1
Newcombe, B.	5	32	89	17.8	3
Evans, D.	2	18	74	37.0	0
Diedrick, D.	5	15	61	12.2	0
Perino, J.	6	12	54	10.8	0
John, T.	5	7	22	4.4	0
Kingston, B.	4	5	18	4.0	0
Applegate, S.	6	1	-6	-1.2	0
London, F.	5	1	-10	-2.0	0

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Crouch, E.	5	28-47-3	59.6	524	4
Newcombe, B.	5	10-17-1	58.8	213	2
Perino, J.	6	0-1-0	0.0	0	0

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	TD
Dawson, M.	4	12	185	13.8	41.3	1
Wistrom, T.	5	8	250	31.3	50.0	2
Applegate, S.	5	4	87	21.8	17.4	1
Newcombe, B.	5	2	55	27.5	11.0	1
Alexander, D.	5	2	31	15.5	6.2	0
Gibson, J.	4	2	19	9.5	4.8	0
London, F.	5	2	11	5.5	2.2	0
Miller, W.	5	2	11	5.5	2.2	0
Crouch, E.	5	1	60	60.0	12.0	0
Go-Hardy, A.	4	1	24	24.0	6.0	0
DoBales, T.J.	4	1	18	18.0	4.5	0
McKee, J.	2	1	8	8.0	3.0	0

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, J.	5	4	3	37

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Hadenfeldt, D.	28	1306	46.6	73

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	S/Yds.
Brown, M.	5	18	15	34	1-3	1-3	0
Poik, C.	5	11	22	33	5-23	0	2-17
Wills, A.	5	12	10	22	1-1	0	0
Ortiz, T.	5	9	11	20	4-7	0	2-15
Brown, R.	5	11	7	18	1-7	1-35	0

TEAM STATISTICS

Total Offensive Yards	1,890	1,054				
Plays	323	324				
Average Per Play	5.9	3.3				
Average Per Game	378.0	210.8				
Net Rushing Yards	1,153	335				
Attempts	258	175				
TDs Rushing	17	1				
Net Passing Yards	737	719				
Completions	38	68				
Average Per Pass	17.3	4.8				
Average Per Catch	19.4	12.4				
Average Per Game	147.4	143.8				
TDs Passing	8	4				
Sacks By Yards	15-136	8-56				
Fumbles-Lost	16-7	9-7				
Penalties-as Yards	35-325	36-242				
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
NU	50	47	53	35	0	185
Opponents	7	3	13	21	0	44

Three Freshmen Get Early Chance

*Upperclassmen
indoctrinate
first-year players*

By Mike Babcock

M Tionu Fonoti and John Garrison moved their equipment from the freshman locker room in Schulte Fieldhouse to the varsity locker room in the South Stadium on Monday.

Taylor Gehman didn't move until Thursday, the week of the opener at Iowa.

He was told to move the same day Fonoti and Garrison did. "But I took like a whole week to move in there," said the true freshman rover back from Northwest High School in Omaha.

"I did not want to move. Finally, they made me."

Gehman had heard the stories about what awaited him in the varsity locker room. Some of his older teammates had warned him what would happen, telling him "don't go in there."

The "linebackers" were particularly adamant, he said.

His concern was "all the crap they make you do."

Gehman's fears were realized soon after he moved in. He was told to jump on one leg, rub his head and pat his stomach while singing a slow song. It was embarrassing, he said.

Not only that, he couldn't think of a slow song to sing.

He finally settled on "Let's Get It On."

His rendition wasn't to the standards of, say, senior defensive tackle Steve Warren, who sings in church and at weddings and probably ought to sing the national anthem before a game at Memorial Stadium this season. Anthony Steels, a wingback in the early 1980s, did it when he was a senior.

But "they" weren't concerned about the quality of the singing, just that it was done.

Who were they? "The linebackers," Gehman said. "They're the worst."

He smiled. OK. So the linebackers aren't all that bad, really

"They give you crap," said Gehman. "But they also take care of you, like a younger brother."

It's not that the 5-foot-11, 195-pound Gehman can't take care of himself. He wouldn't have been moved to the varsity locker room if he couldn't take care of himself. "He's very aggressive," defensive backs coach George Darlington said. "He knows how to go after the football."

Four games into the season, Gehman, Fonoti and Garrison were the only true freshmen not redshirting this season. And barring something unforeseen, they'll remain the only ones who play.

All three quickly showed they had the athletic ability and physical maturity to contribute without sitting out a season. But more importantly, all three played positions at which Nebraska had needs.

Opportunity is a key to playing as a true freshman, and there have been few opportunities at Nebraska, which typically has a deep talent pool because of its retention rate and walk-on program.

Even with the NCAA's reductions in scholarships and the tightening of eligibility requirements, true freshmen are the exception rather than the rule among the Cornhuskers. During the 1990s, Nebraska has played more than three true freshmen in only two seasons, 1996 and 1997.

That Fonoti, James Sherman's backup at offensive left guard, would play immediately was apparent early in the fall, for a variety of reasons, including a lack of experienced depth in the line.

The situation worsened when Jason Schwab, a returning starter at offensive tackle, suffered a season-ending knee injury, necessitating some switching of positions among backups.

Garrison was recruited as a rush end but had gotten big enough by the end of the summer that defensive coordinator Charlie McBride was considering moving him to defensive tackle.

Instead, Garrison was moved to the offensive line, not only because of Schwab's injury but also because of an injury to Matt Shook, a redshirted freshman lineman who had been working at center.



Taylor Gehman, a true freshman from Omaha Northwest High School, has provided depth at rover.

Garrison's ability as a deep snapper, coupled with what offensive line coach Dan Young said was a desire to reduce the demands on starting center and last season's No. 1 deep snapper Dominic Raiola, enabled Garrison to avoid a redshirt, a decision made the week before the Iowa game.

Gehman's opportunity to play this season also was injury-related. Going into fall camp, there was a question about whether junior Joe Walker would be able to play because of reconstructive knee surgery, following a left ACL injury during practice prior to the Holiday Bowl game.

Walker, the No. 1 nickel back last season, has returned and is working his way back as a kick returner and Mike Brown's backup at rover. But he could have been redshirted.

There was further concern about depth in the secondary because of injuries to redshirted freshman Mike Demps and junior Erwin Swiney, who is being redshirted because of an abdominal injury.

Swiney was among six true freshmen who played on the 1997 national championship team.

The uncertainty regarding Walker was a significant factor in Gehman's promotion to the varsity, according to Darlington, who also included true freshmen defensive backs Rob Blomeier and Pat Ricketts on the travel



Toniu Fonoti of Hauula, Hawaii, is the top backup to starter James Sherman at left guard

roster for the Iowa game. "I've been pleased with the other two," he said.

But Blomeier, who's been hampered by a hamstring problem, and Ricketts aren't rovers

Blomeier and Gehman roomed together during two-a-days and spent their evenings studying the playbook. "It's overload, like cramming for a test basically," Gehman said early on.

As a result, he wouldn't have been averse to redshirting.

"It just depended on how fast I picked up the stuff," he said. "If I felt I was ready, I would like to play. But if I needed to learn, take a year to get used to the program, I would redshirt."

Adjusting to the program wasn't as difficult as it might have been because Gehman spent the summer in Lincoln, getting to know his teammates and working out with them every day.

He also was familiar with the program after participating in the Big Red summer camp. In fact, it was at the camp following his sophomore year in high school that former Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne told him that he could be a scholarship recruit if he continued to develop.

"It was wild. I was real surprised," said Gehman. "When I came down here (for the camp), I didn't know what I was doing. I tested well, in the performance testing and stuff like that. But as for the skill things, some of the

True Freshmen Play in '90s

Nebraska had a freshman-junior varsity team, which typically played a four- or five-game schedule, through the 1990 season, and nearly every freshman played on it, counting as a season of eligibility. A Cornhusker junior varsity team also played a game against the Air Force jayvees, in 1993.

Because of a change in NCAA rules regarding academic non-qualifiers in the early 1990s, there might be some confusion about this list. Derek Brown and Johnny Mitchell, for example, sat out a season following their high school careers, and then were considered freshmen in eligibility.

In contrast, Tyrone Williams was among a handful of players during the 1990s who had to sit out a season following high school before beginning competition as a sophomore in 1993.

Senior weakside linebacker Eric Johnson faced a similar situation, sitting out the 1995 season then playing as a non-redshirt sophomore in 1996. As a result of another change in NCAA rules, he was granted an additional season of eligibility, which means after the fact, he could have been considered a true freshman in 1996, in the same way that Brown and Mitchell were true freshmen.

Confused yet? If so, credit the NCAA and its rules regarding academic non-qualifiers.

Based on NCAA eligibility designations at the time, here are the

Cornhuskers who have played as true freshmen during the 1990s.

1999

Toniu Fonoti, offensive guard
John Garrison, deep snapper
Taylor Gehman, rover

1998

Keyuo Craver, cornerback
Jason Lohr, defensive tackle
Jeremy Slechta, defensive tackle

1997

Correll Buckhalter, I-back
Matt Davison, split end
Bobby Newcombe, wingback
Erwin Swiney, cornerback
Kyle Vanden Bosch, rush end
Joe Walker, rover

1996

Mike Brown, cornerback
Ralph Brown, cornerback
J.R. Edwards, split end
DeAngelo Evans, I-back
Steve Warren, defensive tackle

1995

Kris Brown, placekicker
Ahman Green, I-back
Chad Kelsay, outside linebacker

1994

*#Monte Christo, quarterback
Octavious McFarlin, rover
Grant Wistrom, outside linebacker

1993

Lawrence Phillips, I-back

1992

Tommie Frazier, quarterback

1991

#Doug Colman, linebacker
Troy Dumas, free safety
Abdul Muhammad, wingback

1990

Derek Brown, I-back
Johnny Mitchell, tight end
*we ked on

#redshirted his second season at Nebraska

time I was just guessing and it turned out good for me."

His admitted lack of football aptitude was understandable. He didn't play organized football until his sophomore year at Northwest High. "My parents wouldn't let me," he said. "They thought I would get hurt. So I finally told them I would quit all my other sports if I didn't get to play football."

His parents relented and allowed him to play. And he started his first season on defense. "Just defense," he said. "I love defense. I love to hit. I always wanted to play defense."

"It was always in me, I guess, to fly to the ball."

There's more to playing defense than that, of course, and Gehman has gotten by with a little help from his

friends, particularly those ahead of him on the depth chart, Brown and Gregg List.

"That's what I liked about Nebraska overall," Gehman said. "There's no competition on the defensive side that I've seen. Everyone helps each other. Everyone's real tight and good friends, even if you're behind somebody. Everyone's equal. They just want to see everybody do well when they get in."

Gehman, who has gotten in primarily on the kickoff and punt return teams, has been satisfied with his progress. "I'm real patient," he said. "I'm real happy with my role on the team right now."

And he's happy the hazing is over. Coming up with a slow song to sing was really tough. ■

It's Not Such a Snap

Missouri's woes in punting game demonstrate value of specialist

Never underestimate the value of a reliable deep snapper.

Missouri coach Larry Smith will testify to that, as will just about anyone who watched Nebraska's 40-10 victory over Smith's Tigers in Columbia two Saturdays ago. The Cornhuskers' first nine points followed center snaps that sailed over the head of Missouri punter Jared Gilpin.

Make that a startled Missouri punter Jared Gilpin, who might have had problems catching the first snap even if he were 12-foot tall, with an exceptional standing vertical jump.

Gilpin is only 5-foot-10, and Ben Davidson snapped the ball high over his head, toward the north end zone. The ball was snapped at the 35-yard line and came down at about the 6-yard line.

Gilpin got to it ahead of Nebraska's defenders and batted it out of the end zone for a safety.

On Missouri's second possession, Davidson again snapped the ball from the 35-yard line over Gilpin's head, though Gilpin was able to jump and get a hand on the ball and deflect it.

Afterward, Davidson said he was too charged up, that he just had too much adrenaline.

The loss to Nebraska wasn't Davidson's fault alone, of course. Far from it. But his problems snapping the ball enabled the Cornhuskers to get off to a quick start, and they never looked back.

"Any time you've got your punt team in there, I think every coach kind of holds his breath," Coach Frank Solich said the week before the opener at Iowa, explaining why true freshman John Garrison was being considered for the crucial responsibility as the deep snapper,



True freshman John Garrison was moved to the offensive line and asked to concentrate on deep snapping.

succeeding Dominic Raiola.

Garrison "appears to be a guy who, with continued work, could be a great snapper, maybe as good as the two guys we have in the pros right now who are snapping. And that pays big dividends."

Former Cornhuskers Aaron Graham and Adam Treu are deep snappers in the NFL.

Garrison arrived at Nebraska from Blue Springs, Mo., as a rush end, which wouldn't have precluded him from being a deep snapper. But because of his ability to do that, as well as the fact he had bulked up some, he was moved to the offensive line and asked to concentrate on deep snapping.

"We knew that was something he had done in high school and had done a very good job," Solich said. "It looked like he was excellent at it. His dad indicated he had one bad snap in three years. You could see on tape he was very consistent, and that he got it back there with a great deal of speed."

"So you knew that eventually he could play into the system doing that.

"We didn't realize it would be quite this quickly."

If Garrison had redshirted, as most freshmen do, Raiola, offensive guard Russ Hochstein or possibly tight end Tracey Wistrom probably would have done the deep snapping.

But "they start on offense," said offensive line coach Dan Young, who also works with the kicking teams.

"Then to ask them to cover (on punts), you know . . . some games (last season) we punted like six, seven, eight times, and it kind of wears on you a little bit."

Raiola was the No. 1 deep snapper last season, with Wistrom as backup.

The Cornhuskers have adjusted their alignment for punts, however, and "in the new punting formation we use, in the spread punt, the snapper is more involved," Young said.

"In the past, we never asked the snapper really to block anybody. In the spread punt, he has to take a gap. So he not only has to snap, he also has to come back and protect the gap."

Rather than increase the workload for a starter, the coaches turned to Garrison.

"Once we saw he's a good athlete, with very good balance, we decided to try him at center and then if it doesn't work out, he can always move back to defense," said Young.

It worked out, however, and Garrison avoided a redshirt.

His is an important job, on field goals and extra-point kicks as well as on punts.

Two seasons ago, Kyle Henson became the No. 1 deep snapper just before the Missouri game. "We had to sacrifice a guy to travel and all he was going to do was snap," Young said.

"So there was some question whether to do it. But when we were one point down and no time on the clock, it's nice to have Kyle Henson in there snapping the ball."

Ask Smith how relaxing having a reliable deep snapper can be. ■

No More Divided Loyalties

Iowa State game has special meaning for Ames product Burrow

By Steven M. Sipple

Nebraska sophomore middle linebacker Jamie Burrow was in junior high in 1992, when Iowa State shocked then-seventh-ranked Nebraska 19-10 in Ames, Iowa.

Burrow cheered for the Cyclones that sunny November day at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames, Iowa, because his father, Jimmy Burrow, was an ISU assistant coach.

The elder Burrow, you might remember, was an all-conference defensive back at Nebraska in the mid-1970s.

"Whenever Nebraska played any team beside the one my dad was coaching, I cheered for Nebraska," Jamie Burrow said. "I had an obligation to my dad that game."

Come Saturday night, Burrow will be obligated to help Nebraska beat Iowa State in their game at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Neb. As a graduate of Ames (Iowa) High School, and given his father's former job at ISU, the game has special meaning for Burrow.

"Iowa's my home state, so it's just like when we played Iowa earlier this season," said Burrow, referring to Nebraska's 42-7 season-opening win in Iowa City, Iowa. "Whenever you're playing a team from back home, and you had decided to leave your home state to play somewhere else, beating them makes it all the better. You're showing them that's one reason you left your home state."

Burrow, after starting for four years at Ames High, received scholarship offers from both Iowa and Iowa State. But the fact his father attended Nebraska weighed heavily in his selection of a program. In fact, Burrow said, he is the fifth generation in his family to attend the University of Nebraska.

Fifth generation?

"I was amazed at that, too," he said.

Burrow backs up junior starter Carlos Polk, the team's second-leading tackler. Through the first four games, Burrow averaged 10-15 plays per game. Senior Ben Buettenback of Hastings is third on the depth chart.



Sophomore Jamie Burrow, Nebraska's No. 2 middle linebacker, was credited with three tackles and two quarterback hurries in the Huskers' first four games.

"I learn a lot from Carlos and Ben," Burrow said. "Carlos is more instinct with a lot of natural ability. Ben has to work at it a little more. He has a little bit more of an intellectual approach to the game."

Burrow sees himself as a blend of both.

"I'd like to see more playing time, but that's my role right now, and Carlos is having a great year," Burrow said. "So I'm happy playing special teams and seeing limited time at linebacker."

Iowa State, no doubt, wishes it could have landed Burrow. He recorded 160 tackles his senior year of high school while also hauling in 20 passes for 450 yards as a tight end. His big season helped lead Ames High to a 12-1 record, the only loss coming in the state championship game. He earned first-team all-state honors as a line-

backer and made the Des Moines Register's Elite Team.

He has many good memories of his days in the state of Iowa, including that November day in Ames, where the Cyclones shocked the college football world with their upset. He can't remember where he was sitting.

"But I remember Marv Seiler's long run (late in the game)," Burrow said. "My dad always told me that Marv wasn't the fastest man in the world, but he got it done."

Burrow and his teammates will try to get it done Saturday against a pesky Iowa State team that pushed Kansas State to the limit on Sept. 25 before falling 35-28 in Ames. The Cyclones were idle last week.

"They looked really good against K-State," Burrow said. "I watched up until the third quarter, and I thought for sure they'd win it." ■

Rose Bowl Bid Brings Euphoria

It was called 'the biggest moment since the territory of Nebraska became one of the 48 states'

By Mike Babcock

TEAMS OF THE DECADE

Fifth
in a series
(1940-49)

It began as the best of times. But mostly it was the worst of times, a decade of general despair as far as the Nebraska football program was concerned.

The Cornhuskers' cumulative record in the 1940s was 35-57. They had only one winning season during the decade, going 8-2 in 1940. The season was the next-to-last at Nebraska for Coach Lawrence McCeney "Biff" Jones. And it was the first in which the Cornhuskers played in a bowl game.

Bowl games are taken for granted now. Nebraska has played in 30 in a row.

But when the Cornhuskers received a bid to play Pacific Coast Conference champion Stanford in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day of 1941, the state was euphoric. It was the "biggest moment since the territory of Nebraska became one of the 48 states," the United Press reported.

University Chancellor Chauncey Boucher called off classes on the Monday following Nebraska's acceptance. And students celebrated into the early-morning hours.

Enthusiasm for the game, before and after, was such that former coach Bob Devaney often joked he had been at Nebraska for some time before discovering the Cornhuskers had lost.

Nebraska's offense was based on muscle, the running game. "Like most of the clubs in this section (of the country) where the temperature is too unpredictable to build a passing game, Nebraska depends chiefly on a savage ground game," according to a newspaper report.

"The Cornhuskers rely on power through the middle and the tackles for most of their gains."

Among those who helped open



Photo by AP Wirephoto

Warren Alfson was best-known as a pulling guard. He also might have been the first Cornhusker to take what now is known as a redshirt, sitting out the 1937 season after playing for the freshman team in 1936.

Huskers Illustrated Team of the Decade, 1940-49

End	Ray Prochaska (1938-39-40)
End	Fred Preston (1939 40-41)
Line	Forrest Behm (1938-39-40)
Line	Warren Alfson (1938-39-40)
Line	Tom Novak (1946-47-48-49)
Line	Carl Samuelson (1946 47)
Line	John Sedlacek (1945-46-47-48)
Back	Harry Hopp (1938-39-40)
Back	Dick Hutton (1946-47-48)
Back	Dale Bradley (1940 41-42)
Back	Clete Fischer (1945-46-47-48)
Punter	Jack Pesek (1946-47)

holes for ball carriers such as Harry Hopp, the team's leading rusher in 1940 with 531 yards, were guard Warren Alfson and tackle Forrest Behm.

Alfson and Behm both earned All-America honors that season.

The 6-foot, 1/2-inch, 188-pound Alfson, who played in the backfield at Wisner, Neb., High School, was a solid defensive player. But he was best-known as a pulling guard.

He also might have been the first Cornhusker to take what now is known as a redshirt, sitting out the 1937 season after playing for

the freshman team in 1936. He had considered the number of players at his position and asked Jones if he could preserve a season of eligibility by not playing

He had worked for three years before enrolling at Nebraska and was 25-years-old in 1940.

Alfson was introduced to D.X. Bible, the Cornhuskers' coach at the time, by Jerry LaNoue, who also was from Wisner and lettered for Bible's teams in 1933 and 1935. Bible wasn't impressed, telling him, "when you decide to go to school, choose one you'll be happy with," Alfson once said.

"That's how I was recruited by Nebraska."

Behm's reception was similar. Although he had only played football as a senior at Lincoln High School, because of injuries suffered in a fire when he was young, Behm was persuaded to try out for the freshman team by A.J. Lewandowski, the Cornhuskers' freshman coach at the time.

Because of the financial constraints brought about by World War II, Lewandowski coached the varsity in 1943 and 1944, in addition to coaching basketball and serving as business manager.

Before Behm could play, however, he had to buy a pair of football shoes because Floyd Bottorff, the football team's equipment manager, couldn't find any size-15 shoes to fit him.

Behm had good size for a lineman, at 6-4 and 200 pounds, and he was strong from, among other things, summer jobs shoveling concrete during the WPA construction of Cornhusker highway six hours a day and then stacking 100-pound bags of sugar at the Terminal Warehouse for another six hours.

He and his teammates also worked during the season. Vike Francis, a full-back on the 1940 team, changed records in jukeboxes. Royal Kahler, another tackle, swept out a dry cleaners early every morning. And quarterback Roy Petsch worked in a Lincoln newspaper's classifieds department.

Behm once recalled an argument with opposing players over whether Nebraska's players, like those at other schools, got paid. "They didn't want to think they got beat by a bunch of amateurs."

Prior to the Rose Bowl, a reporter for the Los Angeles Examiner wrote: "The Huskers are playing what campus cynics call 'student football' back there in Lincoln, meaning that all is chaste and pure."

"As football players go, the Good Lord made Tom Novak, then threw away the mold."

— Lyell Bremser

Not only that but most of the Cornhuskers in the 1940s were from Nebraska.

Only one of the 43 players who made the Rose Bowl trip was from out of state.

Robert McNutt, a reserve tackle, was from Colby, Kan.

All of the players on the all-decade team were Nebraskans: Hopp, Hastings; Ray Prochaska, Ulysses; Fred Preston, Fairbury; Tom Novak, Omaha; Carl Samuelson, Grand Island; John Sedlacek, Seward; Dick Hutton, Auburn; Dale Bradley, Lincoln; Clete Fischer, St. Edward; Jack Pesek, Ravenna.

None was tougher than the 5-10 1/2, 205-pound Novak, who came from South High School and became, in many ways, the definitive Cornhusker. "My eyes have never seen Tom Novak's equal at any position," said radio broadcaster Lyell

Bremser, himself a Nebraska legend.

"As football players go, the Good Lord made Tom Novak, then threw away the mold."

Novak, whose nickname "Trainwreck" was given to him by high school coach Corny Collin, is the only four-time all-conference honoree in Cornhusker football history. He played linebacker on defense and center on offense, moving there after his freshman season, when he played fullback.

No game better illustrates his play than Nebraska's 31-0 loss to eventual national champion Notre Dame at South Bend, Ind., in 1947. The Fighting Irish included quarterback Johnny Lujack, the Heisman Trophy winner that season, and tackle George Connor, the Outland Trophy winner the previous year, as well as halfback Emil Sitko, a consensus All-American who almost went to Nebraska.



6090 North 56th St.
Lincoln, NE
434-5310

8415 Blondo
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(He was told the Cornhuskers already had enough good halfbacks.)

"From a Nebraska standpoint, the game is a story about one player," a Lincoln newspaper reporter wrote for the next day's editions. The one player to whom he referred was Novak, who intercepted a Lujack pass early in the game and was involved in 17 tackles during a 21-play, two-series sequence.

Novak once said that his passion for football could be traced to his sophomore year in high school, when he saw a newspaper photograph of himself tackling a player from Benson High.

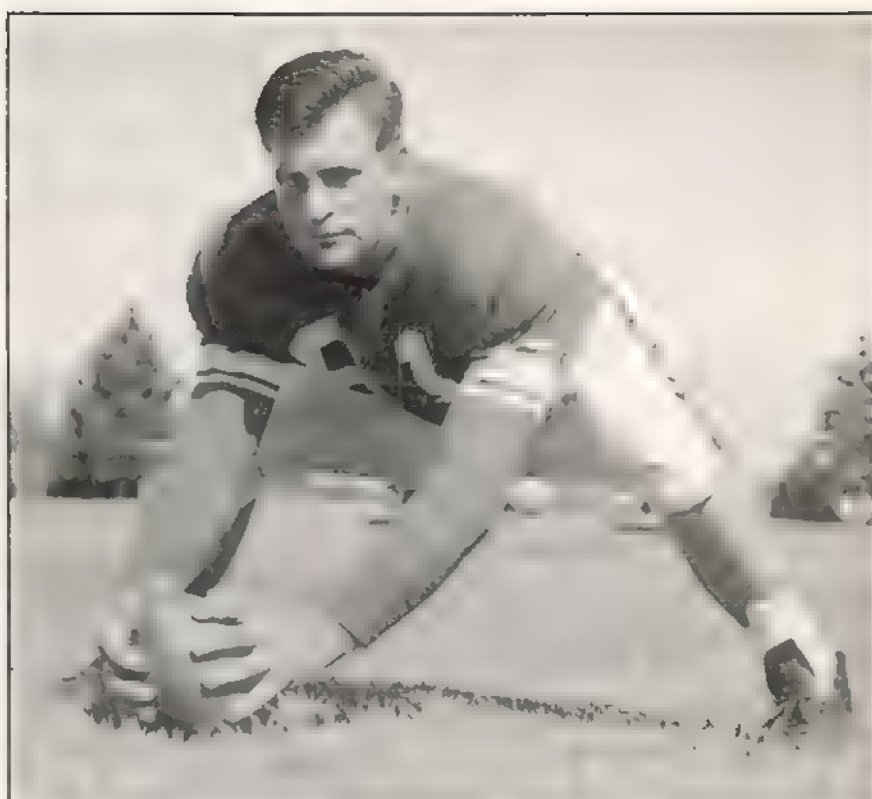
"I drove myself into the scrapbook," he said of his desire for recognition.

In addition, he heeded the advice of Collin, who told him to "play for your folks."

When he went to Nebraska, Collin also advised him to "stay out of pool halls, stay out of the movies and don't buy a car," which explains why he often had to hitchhike home to Omaha.

Motorists gladly offered rides to hitchhikers wearing Nebraska letter-sweaters, however, he said.

The Cornhusker teams of the late 1940s were characterized by their



Tom "Trainwreck" Novak is the only four-time all-conference selection in Cornhusker football history.

rugged play. "Our team was tough, from one end to the other," Dick

Moomey, a senior halfback in 1947, recalled recently.

"The biggest thing we had against us was, most of us, 80 to 90 percent of the guys on the team, had come back from the war, and the discipline wasn't quite the same as it is now.

"To us it was just a game. After you've been in the Army or Navy..."

Because of World War II, Nebraska lost Jones, a former Army major who was called back into service following the 1941 season. The Cornhuskers would have five more head coaches before the decade ended: Glenn Presnell, Lewandowski, "Potsy" Clark, Bernie Masterson and Bill Glassford.

Novak played for the last three of those coaches. Clark left Nebraska the year before he arrived, after only one season, but returned to coach the Cornhuskers again in 1948.

The decade ended with a 4-5 record in Glassford's first season, a far cry from the way it began. Nebraska lost its opener in 1940 at Minnesota, 13-7, when a touchdown by Butch Luther was called back because of a penalty. The Cornhuskers didn't lose again until the Rose Bowl.

Nebraska finished seventh in the Associated Press poll, which had been established in 1936. The final poll was released before the bowl games, with Minnesota at No. 1 and Stanford second ■

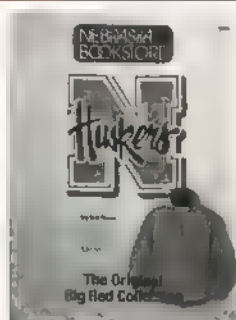
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[FULL STORY](#)

RECRUITING

Nebraska received at least its 12th oral commitment, when T-back Thunder Collins of East Los Angeles College gave his word to become a Cornhusker.

[FULL STORY](#)

OTHER NEWS

All-American Nancy Meendering pounded a school-record 39 kills and posted a career-high 21 digs, but it wasn't enough to overcome a gutsy effort by Kansas State in the Big 12 Conference opener for both schools.

[FULL STORY](#)

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NU Was Far in Front

Louisville administrator Hermann learned from hard work as walkon

Terry Pettit's recruiting pitch to Julie Hermann was simple and to the point, no frills. And it came in the form of a question: "Do you want to play at Nebraska or not?"

Hermann's response was equally direct. "Yes sir," she replied.

That was the essence of it, anyway. It wasn't quite that dramatic because she was contacted by several major schools, among them Mississippi, Houston, Arizona and Missouri.

She even took an official recruiting visit to Missouri, which was about as far from home in Nebraska City as she was willing to go. Missouri even offered a scholarship, while Pettit was asking her to walk on. But the Tigers inadvertently reinforced her belief that Nebraska was the place to go.

"They told me: 'We're the best in the Big Eight, other than Nebraska,'" she said.

Pettit's Huskers so dominated the Big Eight that it would have been pointless to try to convince her otherwise. As for the scholarship, she was confident that she would earn one.

"Why, I don't know," Hermann said.

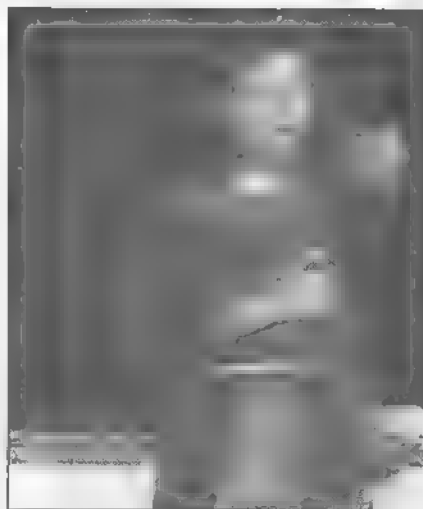
In retrospect, it appears, if she hadn't had that confidence in her ability, she probably wouldn't have been recruited by Pettit because then as now, "he recruits phenomenally athletic women," she said.

"He could take them to (play) lacrosse and they would probably win."

But the program's remarkable success is a result of more than that. Pettit has drawn out the best from the best, and in doing so has created "an entire generation of women who are better than what they could have been. There's not a single day when I don't thank him for that," Hermann said.

Her success after a playing career in which she earned four letters (1981-84) and was first-team all-conference as a senior stands in testament to Pettit's influence, according to Hermann, who is in her second year as Senior Women's Administrator at the University of Louisville.

She also has been the head volleyball coach at Tennessee and Northern



Julie Hermann was the head volleyball coach at Tennessee.

Arizona and an assistant at Wyoming and Georgia as well as for the U.S. National Team, her last stop before Louisville.

And before every career move, "I've always called Terry, though I don't call in Terry, I still call him 'Coach.' He's still 'Coach' to all of us (former players)," said Hermann.

Except for Cathy Noth, who spent 10 years as Pettit's assistant. She calls him Terry.

"That's an example of his power in the universe for us," Hermann said.

In one sense, at least, Pettit hasn't changed all that much from when she played, said Hermann, who was starting as a sophomore and still didn't have a scholarship. He has always been demanding.

"You had to bust your butt every day you came to practice or somebody was going to show you up," she said. "I took it for granted that's the way it was everywhere. But it's not."

"It's something special. And I can't say enough about it."

"We worked four hours a day in order to compete. That's how we were going to get good. I don't remember anybody spending any energy wishing it were any different."

She and her teammates never considered what they didn't have. "Speaking for myself, I didn't, and probably because I was too darn dumb to know the difference," Hermann said. "I would long for the type of woman (athlete) who came there 20 years ago. We would do anything to compete."

"Where are those kids now? They

25 YEARS

of Women's Athletics

In celebration of 25 years of women's athletics at Nebraska, Huskers

Illustrated is featuring stories with Husker women student-athletes from the late 1970s and 1980s, remembering the way things were and discussing how things have changed.

aren't here anymore."

Women's intercollegiate athletics have changed, mostly for the better certainly. But "kids today come in with such a strong sense of entitlement, in every sport, in every university," she said. "We've created more competition opportunities than there are women to fill the spots."

Also as funding for women's programs increases, so does the pressure to win. And that pressure has had an adverse effect on the number of qualified female coaches, according to Hermann.

"One of the biggest challenges is, now that we've pumped money into these programs, we have to get the wins," she said. "And how do you develop good (female) coaches? Because of the wins, programs want the most experienced coaches they can get. And most of those coaches are men."

Nebraska has been at the forefront in women's intercollegiate athletics, Hermann said. "I think to Nebraska's credit, while there have been some pretty substantial changes, Nebraska was so far in front of everybody 20 years ago that the adjustments there have been gradual and slight. You don't realize at the time that they're so far in front of everybody. Then you get away and realize: Oh, my gosh."

The volleyball program has been the women's athletic program in microcosm.

"You had a group of women who were single-minded, focused, hard working," Hermann said.

And that's the approach Nebraska took, "the hard way, the long way, over time," she said.

"To do it any other way would not be healthy."

She probably knew that, or at least sensed it, when she agreed to walk on. ■



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SIDEOUT **Back** **to the** **Future**

*John Cook gave up
the head coaching
job at Wisconsin for
a chance to lead the
Huskers*

By Todd Henrichs

This volleyball season is a waiting game of sorts for John Cook. Nebraska's new associate head coach is waiting for the chance to take over the program he first dreamed of leading years ago. That opportunity won't come until current head coach Terry Pettit steps down — possibly as early as December — but Cook isn't sitting idly biding his time.

Instead, Cook has already made significant changes in how Nebraska trained in the offseason and how it plays defensively. Both changes were made at the request of Pettit, who told Cook to size up the Huskers from top to bottom.

"He's asked me to really challenge everything



John Cook has already made significant changes in how Nebraska trains in the offseason and how it plays defensively.

that they were doing," Cook said. "Are we running the right system? Do we have people in the right positions? Is our footwork correct?"

"It's all little, technical-type things that most people wouldn't notice, but it might give you a step. That can make the difference in this kind of program."

They often did at Wisconsin, the program rocked by Cook's resignation in February. In seven seasons as the Badgers' head coach, Cook built a program that came within a win of Final Four appearances each of the last two years.

The decision to leave was difficult, but only surprised Wisconsin officials because it was for a job as assistant coach and not head coach at one of the nation's most respected volleyball programs.

The decision was difficult, Cook said, and was one he had to relive already this season. The Huskers faced Wisconsin in a regular-season match, winning in three straight games in Lincoln.

Seeing his old players — players he recruited to Wisconsin from all parts of the nation — was more difficult than he could have imagined. Cook's former players were hurt by his departure and in some cases have yet to put the decision behind them.

"It's worth not leaving any job just so you don't have to go through that," Cook said after the match. "I don't plan on making another move."

Except maybe to the head coach's office at NU, a post Cook believes gives him the best chance of coaching in a Final Four and winning a national championship.

Cook and Pettit are best friends, a relationship built from 1988 through 1991 when Cook first worked as an assistant coach at Nebraska. The Huskers advanced to the Final Four in two of those three seasons.

Cook also brings Olympic experience to the Husker staff. As an assistant with the men's National Team, Cook aided the U.S. to a bronze medal at the 1992 Barcelona Games. As he could be called at Nebraska, Cook served as the Olympic team's defensive coordinator.

Beginning in the spring, Cook went to work on NU's defense and helped construct a summer program that helped get the Huskers in better shape for the rigors of a long season. Nebraska senior Mandy Monson said the Huskers can see improved defensive play over a year ago.

"We pick up a lot of balls that we just didn't pick up last year," Monson

"I am able to walk into a house and say 'I left a top-10 program, and this is why I came to Nebraska.'"

— John Cook

said. "It has a lot to do with Cook and the conditioning that we've done over the summer."

"He's had a major impact on our team."

Pettit isn't surprised and values the opinions of a coach who has been on the other side of the net for several years. Just last December, Cook nearly engineered a Wisconsin upset of Nebraska in the Pacific Regional final in Lincoln.

"A lot of the times when you're in a situation, you don't know some things everybody else does," Pettit said. "You think you're pretty good at something when other people are watching you objectively and step back from the situation and say 'Nebraska doesn't do this very well.'"

"John has brought things that he understood about Nebraska volleyball that I didn't have an insight into."

Cook concedes if the Badgers won that match and reached the Final Four, he likely would never have come back to NU. But his decision does say a lot

for the program, a fact pointed out to potential recruits every day.

"I am able to walk into a house and say 'I left a top-10 program, and this is why I came to Nebraska,'" Cook said. "This is what I see for the future and this is what interests me that I would give up a lot to come here."

"We're really going to have an edge in recruiting."

That's bad news for the rest of the volleyball world. This season, Nebraska was off to a solid 8-2 start before a shocking home loss to Kansas State in the Big 12 Conference opener. The Huskers were picked to repeat as league champions.

Nebraska could be even better next season.

But trying to come up with when Pettit will turn over coaching duties is less certain. The question has been asked, and will continue to be asked until a decision is made.

"It's hard to answer now," Cook said. "That's something we'll have to work through with Coach Pettit." ■

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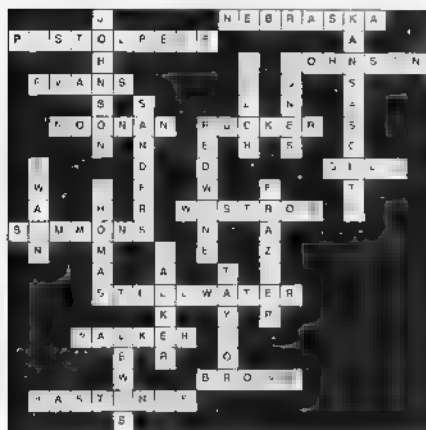
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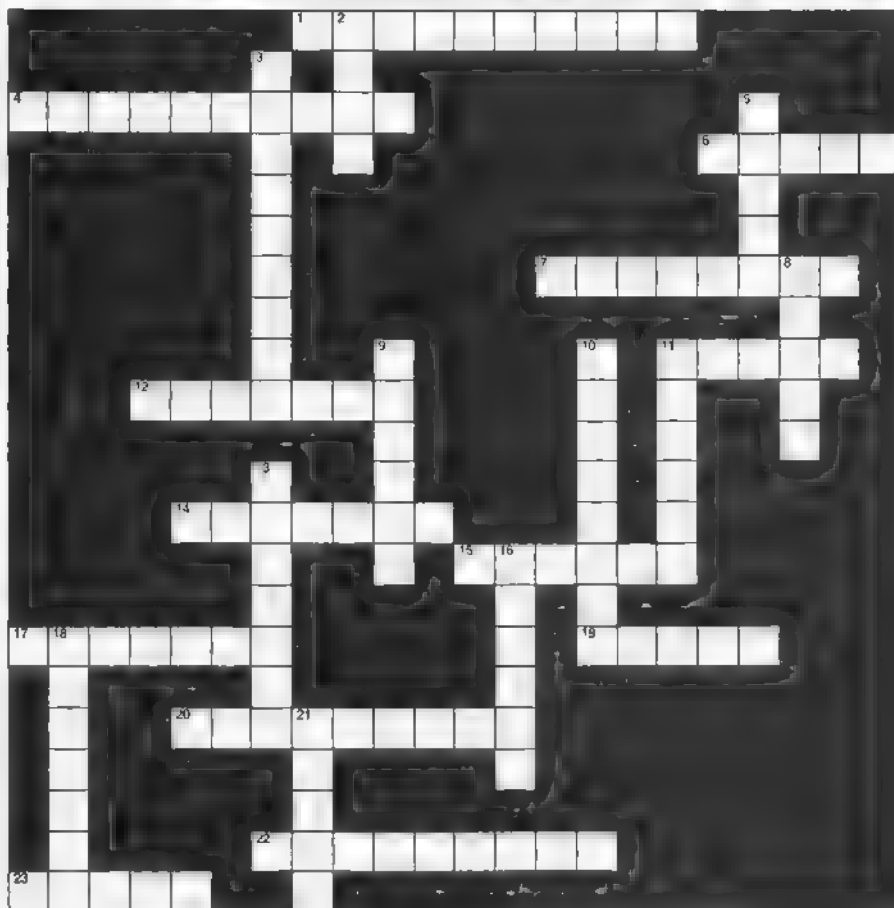
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13 NU's No. 50
16 1990 All-America defensive tackle
18 1998 Academic All-America punter
21 Wore retired jersey No. 60

CROSSWORD



This Week in Husker History

October 2

1925 — Red Grange, the "Galloping Ghost" of Illinois, is limited to 62 yards on 19 carries in the mud and rain at Champaign, Ill., as Ed Weir-led Nebraska shuts out the Fighting Illini 14-0. Nebraska coach Cornhusker head coach Ernie Bearg has come from Illinois, where he was an assistant and coached Grange

October 4

1980 — Linebacker Paul Piurowski forces a fumble by Cornhusker quarterback Jeff Quinn to foil a comeback attempt and preserve 16th-ranked Florida State's 18-14 victory against third-ranked Nebraska at Memorial Stadium. Afterward, Seminole Coach Bobby Bowden sends an open letter to newspapers in Nebraska commending Cornhusker fans on their behavior despite the upset.

October 5

1940 — Nebraska's opens the season with a 13-7 loss to eventual national champion Minnesota in Minneapolis. A touchdown run by the Cornhuskers' Butch Luther is called back because of a penalty. Nebraska will win its next eight games before losing to Stanford in the Rose Bowl game.

October 6

1979 — Junior Jarvis Redwine, a transfer from Oregon State, gets his first start at Nebraska and responds by rushing for 120 yards and one touchdown on only 16 carries, all in the first half, as the Cornhuskers overwhelm New Mexico State 57-0 at Memorial Stadium

October 7

1950 — Sophomore halfback Bobby Reynolds sheds tears of joy after scoring 14 points in the Cornhuskers' 32-26 victory at Minnesota to snap a 10-game

losing streak against the Golden Gophers. The victory is Nebraska's first against Minnesota in Minneapolis since 1902.

October 8

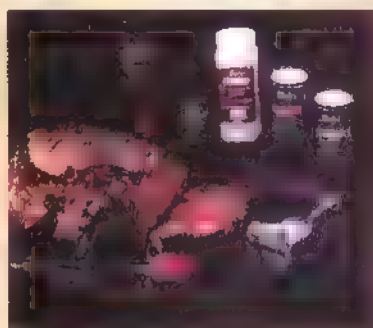
1983 — Cornhusker safety Bret Clark intercepts a pass in the end zone on the final play of the game to preserve a 14-10 victory against Oklahoma State in Stillwater. Nebraska's touchdowns come on Turner Gill passes of 62 yards to wingback Irving Fryar and and 32 yards to tight end Todd Frain.

October 9

1971 — Missouri holds Nebraska scoreless in the first quarter, something no other opponent can do, but the Cornhuskers score 16 points in the second quarter on the way to 36-0 victory at Columbia. The shutout is the first of three as Nebraska wins a second consecutive national championship. ■

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Offensive Line Prospects Know Nebraska Tradition

Top recruits notice attention received by Husker linemen

By James Hale

It's been stated over and over that Nebraska is the one school where offensive linemen actually earn celebrity status.

This is nothing new and has been stated as such in this column. Then it is no surprise that offensive line prospects from all over the country seem to have an interest in the Cornhuskers.

Considering that Nebraska is still the premier power football team in the country, it makes sense for them to put so much time and energy in developing its offensive line. The Cornhusker weight room, an offensive lineman's home away from home, is regarded as the best in the country.

The Nebraska fans toast a Cornhusker offensive lineman just as readily as they do a great tailback. Around campus, the students know the name and the face of the center just as much as they do the quarterback.

It's rare that an offensive lineman gets this kind of attention, but that is exactly the case at Nebraska!

Already, the Cornhuskers have commitments from offensive linemen Mike Erickson (6-foot-4, 262 pounds with 5.1 speed in the 40-yard dash) of Papillion LaVista, Neb., Martin Flaum



Martin Flaum of Denver (Northglenn) is one of three offensive linemen who have committed to Nebraska.

of Denver (North), Colo., and Josh Plisch (6-4, 290, 5.0) of Rothschild, Wis. All three are playing well and still committed to Nebraska.

Flaum is the key offensive line force for a 3-0 team and even plays a little defense on occasion.

"I don't play much on defense, but to be honest, I am enjoying my time over there even more than I do when I play offense," Flaum said. "I know I am not going to play on defense at Nebraska, so I am going to enjoy my time over there while I can."

"I think my season is going all right I guess," Erickson said. "We struggled in the first game, and I didn't finish because I got dehydrated and didn't play much in the second half. We won the next two

games, and I played much better. I think I have played all right, especially in the second and third game."

John Doty (6-7, 265, 5.0) of West Des Moines, Iowa, is considered one of the top 50 players in the country. He is a huge man that many colleges like as a tight end, however, his real future is going to be at offensive tackle, where he can take advantage of his frame and long arms.

"I think I can catch the ball pretty well, and some colleges like me there, but more want me for the offensive line," Doty said. "That's OK with me. Maybe I can play a little of both wherever I go."

A year ago, Doty caught 12 passes and scored four touchdowns. He doesn't spend much time in the weight room (200-pound bench) because he plays basketball and is a Division I recruit in that sport, after averaging 16 points per game. Doty camped at Kansas State, Nebraska, Iowa and Notre Dame and has the Hawkeyes out in front early.

"I know a little more about Iowa, and they were the first to offer me," Doty said. "I really like the tradition of the Nebraska offensive lineman and how they dominate a football game. To be a part of that tradition would be something special. I am still waiting to hear what they really want to do with me, and then I will get real serious about Nebraska."

Nick Schneider (6-3, 318, 5.3) of Antioch Deer Valley, Calif., is one of the best players on the West Coast. Schneider can bench press 450 and loves to run block. He has always been a Nebraska fan and is looking forward to taking a visit to Lincoln.

"The Nebraska offensive line always seems to be a well-oiled machine," Schneider said. "They are great players but always work very well together. I know about the tradition of the Nebraska offensive line and think it would be great to be a part of that."

Nebraska is the early leader over Washington, California, Arizona and UCLA.

Shaun Olivea (6-5, 310, 5.0) of

Commitments for 2000

Player	Hometown (school)	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
Thunder Collins	Los Angeles (East L.A. College)	6-2	210	LB
Ira Cooper	Omaha (Westside), Neb.	6-1 1/2	220	LB
Sandro DeAngelis	Buffalo, N.Y. (St. Joseph Coll.)	5-9	195	FB/K
Mike Erickson	Papillion (Papillion-LaVista), Neb.	6-4	260	OL
Martin Flaum	Denver (Northglenn), Colo.	6-5	280	OL
Steve Kriewald	North Loup-Scott's	5-11	250	FB
DeWayne Long Jr.	West Des Moines (Dowling) Iowa	6-1	205	RB
Lorne McPherson	Omaha (Central), Neb.	5-11	175	DB/WB
Ross Pilkington	Loveland, Colo.	6-1	175	WR
Josh Plisch	Rothschild, Wis.	6-4	290	OL
Jason Richenberger	Liberty, Mo.	6-3	210	LB
Chris Septak	Millard (West), Neb.	6-4	235	TE

Cedarhurst (Lawrence), N.Y., is rated as one of the best offensive linemen in the country. A preseason All-American, Olivea specializes in pancakes, with an average of seven a game. Olivea is leaning toward staying on the East Coast but does have an interest in the Cornhuskers.

"Syracuse has been my favorite for a long time, but it's interesting, now that we are recruiting I want to check out several schools," Olivea said. "I love Nebraska's offense and the way they assault people. They get after the defense at the line of scrimmage, and it starts with the offensive line. I am still setting up my visits, but I hope to give Nebraska a look."

Syracuse, Ohio State, Wisconsin, Nebraska and West Virginia appear to be the top five.

Nick Povendo (6-5, 270, 5.0) of Keller, Texas, is one of the top five offensive linemen in the state. A tough, aggressive lineman, Povendo is one of the top run blockers in the nation. Povendo is looking at schools all over the country, and Nebraska is one of the schools he likes the most.

"Nebraska is a great football program with a great tradition in the offensive line," Povendo said. "Nebraska's offense is one of the most sound in the country, and they always seem to get the most out of their talent."

Povendo is still considering Nebraska, Tennessee, TCU, Texas A&M, Kentucky and Notre Dame.

Lionel Garr (6-7, 335, 5.3) of Diboll, Texas, is one of the largest prep players in the country. He is talented as well, starting in basketball and throwing the shot 57 feet. Garr is leaning to Texas but admits the Cornhuskers have made up some ground of late, with Kansas State, Texas A&M and UCLA also in the hunt.

"I have liked Texas for a long time, but I am not ready to commit to them or to anybody for that matter," Garr said. "They have a great school, but so does Nebraska and a number of other schools that I am considering."

Robert Blocker (6-5, 330, 5.3) of Chicago (Morgan) admits that he is working on his quickness, but with a 350-pound bench press and a tremendous work ethic, Blocker is drawing rave reviews in the Midwest. He is looking at Wisconsin, UCLA, Nebraska, Michigan State, South Carolina and Tennessee.

"There are so many good schools that I am considering that it's hard to choose," Blocker said. "Nebraska is one of the very best, and I hope to take a visit there after the season."

KU Earns First Commitment

Kansas has finally earned its first commitment from Travis Watkins (6-foot-4, 285, 5.2) of Derby, Kan. Watkins is considered the top defensive line prospect in Kansas and one of the top five players in the state. A year ago, Watkins made 60 tackles, and he is on pace to better that mark this season, as he already has 34 through three games. Watkins picked the Jayhawks over Kansas State, Nebraska, OU, Missouri and Purdue.

"I have been leaning toward staying in state at Kansas for a long time," Watkins said. "I have always been a Jayhawk fan and really like what Coach (Terry) Allen is trying to accomplish. I think there are some opportunities for me to play early at Kansas, and I am going to work hard to be ready to do so."

Oklahoma earned its sixth verbal commitment from TE/DE Dan Cody (6-5, 230, 4.65) of Ada, Okla. Cody has played quarterback, tight end, outside linebacker and defensive end at Ada, one of the top prep teams in Oklahoma, and will play tight end or defensive end at OU.

An update on tight end Quinn Sypniewski (6-6, 260, 4.75) of Johnston, Iowa. Quinn was featured in our last issue and since then told us that Nebraska has a slight lead over Colorado, Michigan, Purdue, Iowa State and Northwestern.

"The more I think about Nebraska, the more it makes sense to go there," Sypniewski said. "They have a great program. I don't know if I am close to committing or not, but I really like Nebraska and what that football program stands for."

DT Zack Newby (6-3, 275, 4.9) of Putnam City (North), Okla., is out of action for another two weeks with a slight tear in the MCL knee ligament. Newby is drawing a lot of recruiting attention and has Colorado and OU at the top of his list with Colorado State, Nebraska, Oklahoma State and USC also in the hunt.

Luke Jacobson (6-3, 185, 4.5) of West Des Moines, Iowa, has emerged as an athlete that the Cornhuskers have their eye on. Jacobson has sure hands, which helped him catch 31 passes for 488 yards and 11 touchdowns. He is also an excellent basketball player, averaging 17.7 points, 4.3 rebounds and 3.4 assist per game. Jacobson has Minnesota out in front over Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.

Darryl Ellis (5-11, 180, 4.5) of Summerville, Texas, is emerging as one of the top running backs in the Lone Star State. Ellis has rushed for 406 yards through three games and has Texas A&M on top of OU, Michigan State, TCU and Nebraska.

Running back Tatum Bell of DeSoto, Texas, is ranked as one of the top five running backs in the country. Bell has great speed and is being recruited coast-to-coast, with Nebraska one of his top programs.

"I am keeping an open mind and really trying to enjoy my senior season," Bell said. "However, it looks like Nebraska needs tailbacks, and I may be able to get some playing time early. Nebraska has never been afraid to play running backs as freshmen, and that is something that I am going to look at." ■

Sean Young (6-7, 295, 5.0) of Cohutta (Northwest Whitfield), is the top offensive lineman in Georgia. Young can bench press 360 pounds, power clean 285, and his brother Chad is a redshirt freshman at Georgia. Florida State is an early leader over the Bulldogs, but Nebraska is making a run Arkansas, USC, North Carolina and Alabama.

Jake Anderson (6-2, 305, 5.1) of Denver (Mullen) is one of the best offensive linemen in the Big 12 Conference region. He already has his

choice down to three in Nebraska, Colorado and USC.

"Nebraska is a great program with a great tradition," Anderson said. "I have grown up with Colorado, and they also have a great program. Right now, I am going to wait and take my visits and then make a decision as to what I want to do."

Matt Moies (6-3, 250, 5.0) of Epworth, Iowa, has his eyes on Nebraska. Moies is looking at Nebraska, Air Force, Iowa, Iowa State, Kansas State and Minnesota. ■

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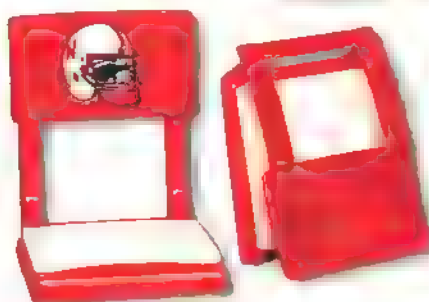
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Louder Would Be Better, Husker Seniors Say

Players look for crowd to make more noise as season goes on



Mike BABCOCK

OKLAHOMA STATE'S FIRST PLAY from scrimmage set the tone. Cowboy tailback Nathan Simmons fumbled, and Nebraska free safety Clint Finley recovered at his own 49-yard line.

Nine plays later, the Cornhuskers led 7-0.

Oklahoma State's third series ended with a Scott Elder punt, which was blocked by Cornhusker strongside linebacker Brian Shaw, giving Nebraska the ball at the Oklahoma State 8-yard line.

Two plays later, the Cornhuskers led 21-0.

Oklahoma State could never recover from that start.

Defense and special teams win championships. But they don't always generate the kind of enthusiasm that provided a context for Nebraska's 38-14 victory against the Cowboys.

"I could hear them pretty well," Cornhusker senior rush end Aaron Wills said of an on-going, NCAA-record 230th consecutive sellout crowd of 77,740 at Memorial Stadium. "It was hard to really hear out there today. And that's good. I love when the crowd gets into it."

The crowd really hadn't gotten into it during Nebraska's first two home games this season, against California and Southern Mississippi, said Wills. And "we were kind of concerned."

The players were so concerned, he said, that the team's Unity Council discussed the situation at its regular meeting on Tuesday. The topic was: Why isn't the crowd getting into it like they usually do?

"We need to have this be a hard place to play," Wills said. "And we really felt like the first couple of games it wasn't like that. So I was encouraged that the crowd really got into it this time."

"As the season goes on, we need them to get louder and more rowdy."

The Cornhuskers' experience at Texas A&M last season was an example of how they would like the crowd at Memorial Stadium to be. "Their crowd was so loud, and they come three hours before the game just to practice their cheers," said Wills. "I mean, they're really a 12th man on the field."

"And that's what we need the crowd to be for us."

Senior offensive tackle Adam Julch, a co-captain and like Wills a member of the Unity Council, agreed. "We have great fans," he said. "I think they need to be a little louder

though. I was trying to get them into it a little bit on the sidelines. But they don't see me out there because I'm skinny."

Julch, who's 6-foot-5 and 320 pounds, was being facetious, of course.

He was interested in increasing the crowd noise at Memorial Stadium, and thereby enhancing the home-field advantage, however. "I'll never complain about our fans," he said. "But our defense is doing so well this year, and when they're out there, I just like to see our fans screaming and hollering."

"You go to other places and it's just deafening. I know we have that ability here."

Part of the problem, as Julch sees it, might be a carryover from last season's 9-4 record. "Maybe because we didn't have a great year they're worried about us or something," he said.

Or part of it might be the attraction of the giant HuskerVision screens. Maybe the fans "are watching the TVs too much," he said. "I don't know if that's the case or not."

The HuskerVision screens were discussed by the Unity Council, and "we concluded that maybe (they) had a lot to do with the reason our fans aren't responding," said Wills.

"We said, 'Maybe it's a big distraction. Maybe all of those little shows and all this stuff is just taking away from the fans and they're not getting into it.' We also thought that maybe they just were kind of waiting to see if we were going to be a good team or not and that we really had to go out there and earn the respect back from last year. That's a couple of things we came up with."

"But overall, we just want the fans who are loyal to us to understand we're going out there to play for them and we want them to cheer for us. We're really putting it on for the whole

state."

Both players emphasized they weren't being critical of the fans, or of HuskerVision.

"When we're on the field and in between plays we just don't want any distractions except for the instant replays, and that's it," Wills said. "We hope the crowd doesn't get taken out of it."

The concern is more for when the defense is on the field because fans just naturally seem to respond more enthusiastically for the offense. "But yeh, they're great fans," said Julch.

"I just want to reiterate that." ■



Rush and Aaron Wills says he "was encouraged that the crowd really got into it this time."

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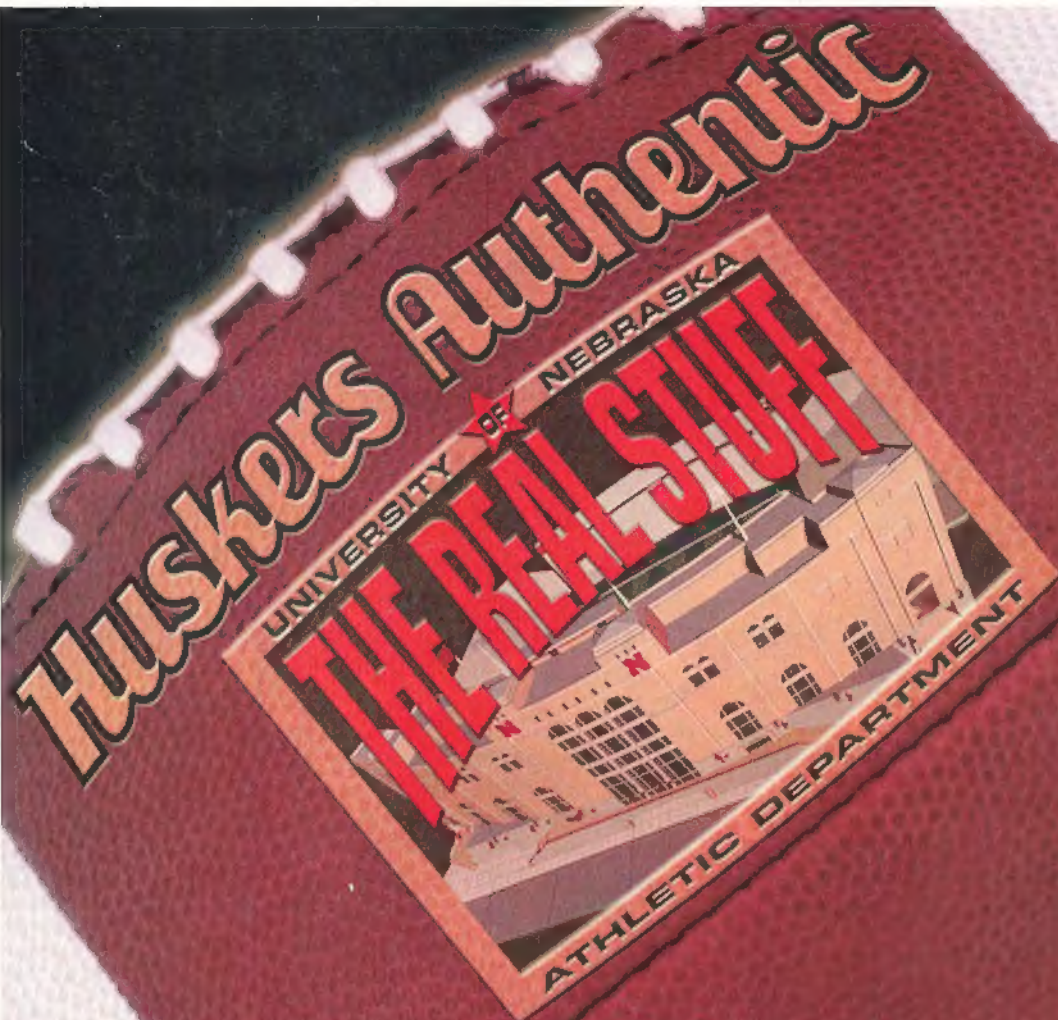
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